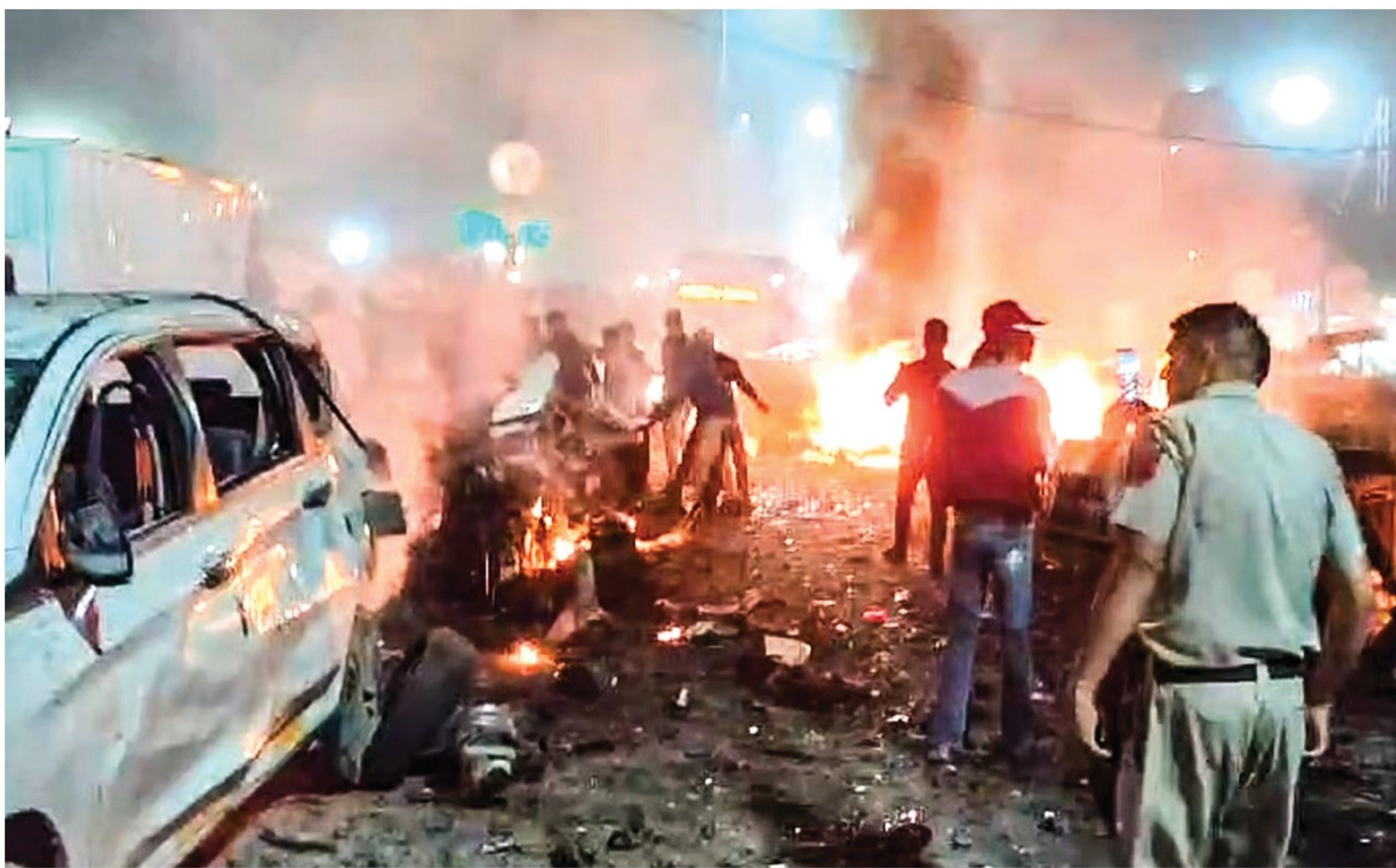




Massive explosion rocks Delhi, 13 killed

The blast that left several injured, occurred hours after **2,900 kg** explosives were found from Faridabad in Haryana

Delhi, poll-bound Bihar; TN, UP, Maha, and Uttarakhand on high alert. Top officials say slow-moving car burst into flames at traffic signal



GROUND REPORT

The vehicle exploded outside gate No. 1 of Lal Quila metro station.

Many cars caught fire due to the explosion in the area popular with tourists.

All the injured people have been taken to nearby hospitals.

The Delhi Police's Special Cell have cordoned off the explosion site.

Traffic has been diverted from Old Delhi areas.

Over a dozen ambulances and 23 fire trucks rushed rescue and evacuation.

The Delhi Police nabbed one suspect in the blast incident, sources said, adding that a multi-agency investigation has been launched.



NEW DELHI

As many as 13 people died and nearly two dozen were injured after a high-intensity blast in a car near the Red Fort in Delhi Monday night.

The vehicle exploded outside Gate 1 of the Lal Qila metro station. The intensity of the blast was such that nearby vehicles also caught fire. Shocking visuals from the site showed a van with its doors blasted off and a completely mangled car.

The blast in the old Delhi area – one of the most crowded in the national capital – came hours after police from Jammu and Kashmir recovered nearly 3,000kg of explosives from Faridabad in Haryana. The explosive materials, which included 350kg of am-

monium nitrate, were seized based on intelligence from a Dr Adil Ahmed Rather and from two houses in the Faridabad area.

As per eyewitnesses, body parts were seen lying on the road. Five people were brought dead to the Lok Nayak Hospital, according to officials.

The city has been placed under high alert and the Ministry of Home Affairs is monitoring the situation. The Delhi Police has restricted the entry and exit to Gate No. 1 of the metro station. However, Metro services are running normally throughout the network.

According to Delhi's fire department, they received a call about the explosion at 6.55 pm, following which seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot. "A call was received regarding

an explosion in a car near Gate No. 1 of the Red Fort Metro Station, after which three to four vehicles also caught fire and sustained damage," the Delhi fire department (DFS) said in a statement.

Visuals from the scene show a panicked crowd at the spot where several cars are seen burning. Another video shows a car with a smashed windshield and an injured man on the ground.

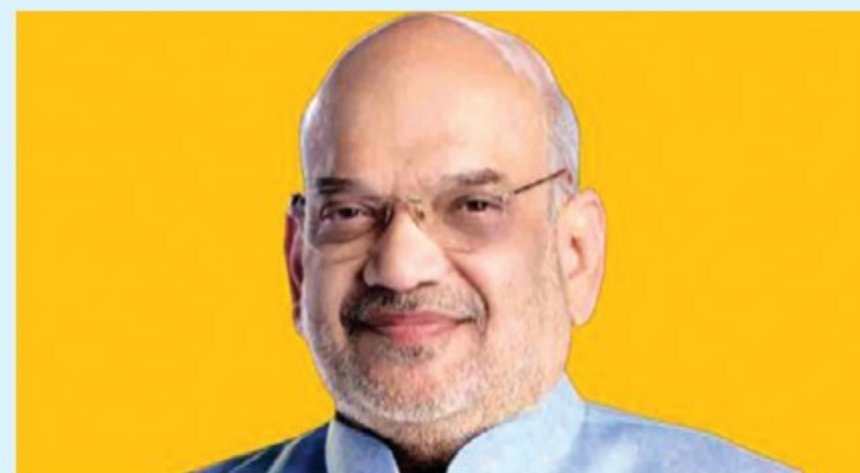
Over 15 fire engines were dispatched to the scene in the initial time, and the police have cordoned off the entire area. Normal traffic in the area has also been restricted. The nature of the blast is not known yet.

The Red Fort, also known as Lal Qila, is located in the congested Old Delhi area. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Delhi.



Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones in the blast in Delhi earlier this evening. May the injured recover at the earliest. Those affected are being assisted by authorities. Reviewed the situation with Home Minister Amit Shah Ji and other officials.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister tweeted



The NSG and NIA teams, along with the FSL, have now begun a thorough investigation. Orders have been given to examine all nearby CCTV cameras. I have also spoken to the Delhi CP and the Special Branch in-charge are present at the spot.

—Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

Multiple states placed under high alert

Mumbai is on high alert after eight people died and 24 were injured in a high-intensity explosion in a car at a crowded area near the Red Fort in Delhi today (Updates here). Security agency sources told NDTV that security is being ramped up at important places in Maharashtra's capital. Police in all districts of Uttar Pradesh and Dehradun were also put on high alert. An order was issued from Lucknow to increase patrols and checks in sensitive areas. Following the Delhi blast, security was increased at the Indo-Nepal border. In addition to the Border Security Force (BSF) deployed along the Indo-Nepal border, local police were also alerted. The BSF and the intelligence department are closely monitoring all visitors crossing the open Nepal border. Security agencies in Rajasthan on high alert Security agencies in Rajasthan have also been alerted following the blast in Delhi. DGP Rajiv Sharma has directed all Range Inspector Generals, District Superintendents, and sensitive police stations to remain on high alert.

PM Modi takes stock of situation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken stock of the situation in the wake of the blast in Delhi. Sources said he spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and took an update on the situation. Meanwhile, the Home Minister has spoken to the Delhi Police Commissioner, the NIA DG and the Director of the Intelligence Bureau to take stock of the situation. Sources said that Shah has given directions to the teams from NSG, NIA, and the forensic department to rush to the spot. The Home Minister remains in continuous touch with the IB Director regarding the incident.

QUICK READ

Student dies in US after severe cough, chest pain

NEW YORK

A 23-year-old Indian student, who graduated recently and was looking for a job, has died after reportedly being sick with a severe cough and chest pain. Rajyalakshmi Yarlagaadda, alias Raji, from Andhra Pradesh graduated recently from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, according to a GoFundMe campaign launched by her cousin Chaitanya YVK in Denton city, Texas. She came to the US with hopes of building a bright future for her family who are marginal farmers in Karamechedu village of Bapatla district, according to the fundraiser.

BSF Porter Dies After Fall in J&K's Poonch

POONCH

A porter associated with the Border Security Force (BSF) 153 Battalion died after reportedly falling from a height at Chamber Kanari (Baran) area in Poonch district on Monday. Officials said that the deceased has been identified as Musthaq Ahmed, (32) a resident of Sawjian. They said that the porter slipped and fell while performing his duties, leading to his death on the spot. Meanwhile Police have taken cognizance of the incident, and further proceedings have been initiated.

Ensure no new Jinnah ever rises again in India: Yogi

GORAKHPUR

Invoking All-India Muslim League leaders Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Mohammad Ali Jauhar, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said those who oppose the national song "Vande Mataram" are insulting India's unity and integrity.

"Even today, we would expect that everyone living in India would be loyal to the nation and work for its unity," Adityanath said while participating in 'Ekta Yatra' (Unity March) and collective singing of "Vande Mataram" in Gorakhpur.

He said, "It is now our duty to identify and oppose all elements that divide society, whether in the name of caste,

region, or language. These divisions are part of a conspiracy to create new Jinnahs."

Adityanath urged people to ensure that no new Jinnah ever arises in India again, and if anyone dares to challenge the nation's integrity, "we must bury such divisive intent before it can take root". "Every citizen of India must stand united for this cause," the chief minister said.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah served as the leader of the All-India Muslim League from 1913 until the inception of Pakistan on 14 August 1947. He then became Pakistan's first governor-general until his death a year later in 1948. Jauhar was the co-founder of the All-India Muslim League.

HDK defends his 'terrorists in Vidhan Soudha' remark

BENGALURU

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy defended his statement that there were terrorists in the Vidhana Soudha and said, "I was talking about political terrorists."

Responding to a query from the media at the JD(S) state office here on Monday evening, the Minister questioned whether those who intimidate farmers and bring goons to the district collector's office in buses to intimidate farmers are terrorists.

"Have the current people in the Vidhana Soudha given any record? They said 40%

government against the previous government, have they given any record? We are all seeing how arrogantly they are intimidating people," he said.

"What should we call the act of intimidating and threatening innocent farmers who came to oppose land acquisition in Bidadi? The media itself showed those scenes for days. Who else but a terrorist activist is needed? They oppressed the farmers," he asked.

During a meeting held at the District Collector's office regarding land acquisition, hired goons were brought in. Instead of the real farmers,

they were brought in to the DC's office! Is this a terrorist culture? Or some other culture? The Union Minister expressed his anger.

"They are going to show that Bidadi Township is Kumaraswamy's offspring. But Kumaraswamy's offspring was different. At that time, there was no large-scale agricultural activity. We did not go against the people. But, now, despite the huge opposition from the people, they are going to make Bidadi Township. Is it the behavior of a goon to scare the farmers and acquire land? Or the behavior of a terrorist? Kumaraswamy asked.

'Dharmendra in Hospital, not in great state'

MUMBAI

Veteran actor Dharmendra, who has been in hospital for several days, is in a serious condition but is stable, an industry insider said on Monday. The 89-year-old actor has been in and out of south Mumbai's Breach Candy hospital. "Dharmaji's health is not in a great state," as per reports. Son Sunny Deol's representative denied reports that the "Sholay" star was on ventilator. "Dharam ji is still in the hospital. The doctors have not advised him to go home. He is recovering and is under observation. He is not on ventilator," sources added.



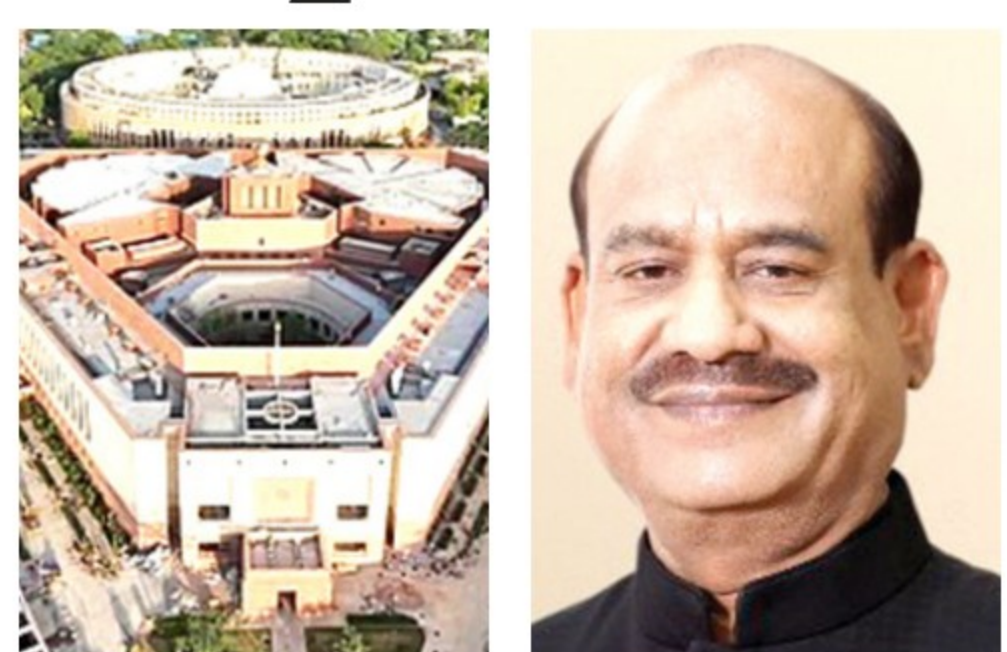
PARLIAMENT WINTER SHOWDOWN

'Planned disruptions not good for democracy'

KOHIMA

Ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said planned disruptions of House proceedings do not rank among good practices of a democracy.

The Winter Session of Parliament is set to be held from December 1 to 19 and will have 15 sittings. The Opposition has attacked the Government over the "short" dura-



tion of the session.

The monsoon session of Parliament was a virtual washout with opposition stalling House proceedings over the issue of special intensive revision of electoral rolls in

Bihar. Asked about the shorter duration of the session, Birla said convening a session of Parliament was the prerogative of the Government, and the duration depends on the official agenda.

"The Government decides the duration of the session depending on the business it plans to transact. It will be our endeavour to discuss with all political parties to ensure smooth functioning of the House," he said.

The Lok Sabha Speaker pointed out that Parliament is the forum to raise issues of public concern and political parties should make effective use of it instead of resorting to disruptions.

"The session is a time for discussion, exchange of views, raising people-centric issues and voice their expectations and aspirations," Birla said, adding, "We expect that all political parties will raise issues inside the House, not outside."

Fung-wong heads towards Taiwan after killing 4 in PHL

TAIWAN

Super Typhoon Fung-wong is headed towards Taiwan after causing extensive damage in the Philippines and killing at least four people on its way out of the Southeast Asian country.

Fung-wong, one of the most powerful storms to hit the Philippines this year, brought howling winds, heavy rainfall and storm swells on the most populous island of Luzon that left some

sleepless through the night on Sunday.

The typhoon arrived while the country was still dealing with the devastation wrought by Typhoon Kalmaegi, which left 224 people dead in the central provinces on Tuesday before pummeling and killing at least five more in Vietnam. Fung-wong slammed ashore in Aurora province on Sunday night as a super typhoon with sustained winds of up to 185kmph.

QUICK READ

Fight between Women
Blocks Road in
Laggere Area

Bengaluru

A group of young women clashed in the middle of the road in Bengaluru's Laggere area on Monday, leading to a complete traffic halt. The altercation reportedly began after a misunderstanding involving a girl on a scooter, who believed she was being abused by others traveling in an auto. The confrontation quickly escalated, with the women pulling each other's clothes as onlookers gathered. An elderly man who tried to intervene also got caught in the scuffle. Police are investigating the incident.

12-Year-Old Boy
Severely Injured in Dog
Attack in Mathikere

Bengaluru

A 12-year-old boy, identified as Praveen, was seriously injured after being attacked by a pet dog in Mathikere on Sunday evening. The incident occurred around 7 pm when Praveen was returning home. The dog bit his right hand, causing severe injuries before locals intervened and managed to rescue him. The boy was immediately rushed to Victoria Hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment. The shocking incident has once again raised concerns about the growing menace of pet dog attacks in the city.

Massive Protest at
Freedom Park over
Power Sector Issues

Bengaluru

Electricity contractors, consumer forums, pro-Kannada organisations, and industrialists staged a massive protest at Freedom Park on Monday, demanding urgent reforms in the state's power sector. The protesters sought exemption from Occupancy and Completion Certificates for buildings with temporary power connections and opposed the steep hike in smart meter rates. They also demanded uninterrupted electricity for farmers' irrigation pump sets, lease approvals for works costing between ₹1 lakh and ₹5 lakh, and the cancellation of what they termed an "illegal power scheme."

Two Outsourced Staff Held for
₹80 Lakh Fraud at IISc, Money
Meant for Students Misused

BENGALURU

In a major case of financial misappropriation, two outsourced employees working at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have been arrested for allegedly siphoning off nearly ₹80 lakh meant for students' foreign travel.

The Sadashivanagar police arrested V. Soundarya, a temporary secretary, and R. Deepika, an assistant — both employed through the outsourcing agency Sri Venkateshwara Enterprises. The duo allegedly tampered with sanction orders for advance payments to IISc students, altered bank details, and diverted the funds to accounts belonging to their family members.

An internal inquiry by IISc uncovered the fraudulent transactions, prompting Registrar Sridhar Warrior to file a police complaint. In his complaint, he stated that both accused had admitted to their wrongdoing in writing during the preliminary inquiry.

Police registered a case under Sections 61(2), 314, 316(5), 336(3), and 340(2) read with 3(5) of the Indian

Kumaraswamy Slams Govt, Says
'Terrorists Sit in Vidhana Soudha'

Union Minister condemns VIP treatment of criminals, calls for accountability

BENGALURU

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy launched a scathing attack on the Karnataka government on Monday, alleging that while terrorists are lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, "far more dangerous terrorists sit inside the Vidhana Soudha." Speaking to reporters at the JD(S) State Office, JP Bhavan, he expressed outrage over reports that serial rapists and terrorists were being offered VIP facilities, including access to

mobile phones, inside the prison.

Kumaraswamy said it was disgraceful that jail authorities were allegedly extending royal treatment to notorious undertrials and convicts. "Terrorists are not only in prison — there are even more dangerous terrorists in the Vidhana Soudha. You know better than I do who they are," he told the media.

The minister noted that

such issues were not new, recalling earlier incidents when senior IPS officers had clashed over VIP treatment to inmates, and courts had issued warnings to prison staff. "Yet again, the same incidents are repeating. What is the use of these so-called investigations when the system itself is compromised?" he said.

Kumaraswamy urged both the media and the public to question the Chief Minister

"The Chief Minister says BJP leaders have no dignity. But what dignity do they themselves have? That is what they must question," Kumaraswamy added.

and the Home Minister about repeated administrative failures, stressing that the government's lapses were being exposed daily. "If terrorists are getting privileges behind bars, the rot clearly runs deeper," he remarked.

BJP Protests 'Royal Treatment' for Traitors in Jail,
Demands CM and Home Minister's Resignation

BENGALURU

State BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra on Monday demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara, alleging that prisoners, including terrorists and anti-national elements, were being treated like royalty in Parappana Agrahara Central Jail.

Vijayendra, who led a protest organised by the BJP Yuva Morcha outside the Chief Minister's residence, accused the Congress government of turning the high-security prison into a "night club and entertainment hub" for terrorists, ISI agents and fundamentalists. "These traitors are being provided with TV, mobile phones, bullets and other luxuries, all under government protection," he alleged.

He charged that the state government was deliberately ignoring such serious lapses. "It is with the Congress government's complicity that these lavish arrangements



have been made inside Parappana Agrahara. After the issue surfaced through the media, the government is trying to cover up the matter," Vijayendra said.

Speaking to reporters later, he warned that if such negligence continues, the Siddaramaiah government may even withdraw cases filed against the accused. "If they have any self-respect, both the Chief Minister and the Home Minister must resign immediately," he demanded.

Leader of Opposition R. Ashok made a scathing attack, alleging that phone calls to Pakistan and Afghanistan were being made from inside the jail through what he described as a "hotline"

linked to senior Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar and Parameshwara. "Has the intelligence department been dead for two years?" he asked, claiming that police stations in the state had been turned into "Congress offices."

Opposition Leader in the Legislative Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, also slammed the government, alleging that the Congress regime has now gone to the extent of officially providing facilities to terrorists within the jail itself.

The BJP leaders vowed to intensify their protest if the government fails to act swiftly on the alleged irregularities in prison administration.

VTU Issues Notice for Fee Payment by
Diploma Lateral Entry Students

BENGALURU

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has directed all affiliated engineering colleges to remit the university fees of students admitted through the Diploma Lateral Entry scheme for the academic year 2025-26.

Colleges have been asked to submit the approved list of admitted students along with the receipt of fee payment to the university without

delay. VTU clarified that for students admitted through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), the fees already paid by KEA to colleges must be promptly transferred to the university's account.

Further, the university instructed that the Finance Officer should remit only administrative fees, while colleges must coordinate separately with the Examination Department for pay-

ment of exam-related fees.

VTU also warned that students whose fees remain unpaid will not be included in the approved admission list. Colleges have been urged to comply immediately to avoid inconvenience to students during the forthcoming examinations.

For detailed guidelines and updates, institutions and students have been advised to visit the official VTU website.

Muthalik Stages Protest over Special
Facilities for Terrorists in Central Jail

BENGALURU

Sri Ram Sena founder Pramod Muthalik led a protest in Bengaluru after a video showing a terrorist using a mobile phone inside Parappana Agrahara Central Jail went viral on social media. Muthalik and his supporters gathered outside the Department of Prisons and Correctional Services, de-

manding immediate action against alleged corruption within the jail. "Corruption in the Central Jail should stop immediately. Special facilities are being provided to terrorists, which is unacceptable," Muthalik said, announcing that a memorandum would be submitted to the Home Minister seeking a thorough investigation.

Muthalik said, announcing that a memorandum would be submitted to the Home Minister seeking a thorough investigation.

HUMANITARIAN CONCERN

Mental Health Fest Explores Intimacy, Identity & Suicide Rates

BENGALURU

On the second day of Manotsava 2025, the National Mental Health Festival delved into complex issues such as the coexistence of masculinity with vulnerability, lack of marital intimacy, workplace burnout, and the alarming rise in suicide rates across India.

Discussing the growing emotional disconnect among couples, Dr. Sandip Deshpande, psychiatrist and sexual and relationship therapist, said that the core problem lies in sexual medicine not being recognised as a formal branch by



the National Medical Council. "This lack of recognition restricts specialised care and awareness," he noted.

Clinical Psychologist Dr. Shobha Managoli emphasised the need for clear boundaries in marriage, ex-

plaining that interference from in-laws and extended family often affects intimacy and can even lead to psychosomatic issues. She added that while women adapt to new family settings, it is equally vital for the family to

Ensure Quality White-
Topping, Better Drainage:
Addl Commissioner

BENGALURU

A large-scale cleanliness and inspection drive was conducted along the 5.3 km stretch from Vaddarapalya Circle to Hennur-Bagalur Road under the direction of Bengaluru East City Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh, said Additional Commissioner (Development) Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar.

During the inspection of ongoing white-topping works, the Additional Commissioner observed that rainwater stagnation was causing inconvenience to commuters. He directed B-SMILE officials to strengthen drainage systems and ensure proper gradient planning during white-topping to prevent water accumulation. "Officers must ensure quality work and avoid damages that create problems for vehicle riders and pedestrians," Sudhakar emphasized.

The cleanliness drive, which began at 6:00 a.m. and continued until noon, involved extensive efforts along both sides and the median of the Hennur-Bagalur Road up to DNR Parking. Around 60 tons of

Officials instructed to improve drainage, ensure durable white-topping and prioritize road safety

silt, 10 tons of waste, and construction debris, along with discarded household materials like sofas and mattresses, were removed during the campaign.

Additional tasks included black spot cleaning, pothole filling, clearing hanging cables, removal of unauthorized flex banners, and desilting of shoulder drains. Departments of road infrastructure, engineering, solid waste management, electrical, health, and sanitation from the Mahadevapura and K. R. Puram zones participated in the operation.

The drive mobilized 20 tractors, 6 auto tippers, 2 ladder jeeps, and over 180 Pourakarmikas. Senior officials, including Chief Engineers, Executive Engineers, Assistant General Manager (BSWML), Health Inspectors, Marshal Supervisors, and Ward Marshals, also took part, ensuring inter-departmental coordination for effective results.

Lawyers Slam City's 'Trash-Shaming' Drive, Call It
Unlawful and Arbitrary

BENGALURU

Legal experts have strongly criticised the city's latest waste management campaign, calling it legally unsound and violative of municipal norms. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) recently launched 'Kasa Suriyuva Habba', a drive aimed at shaming residents who dump garbage in public places. As part of the campaign, civic staff were seen unloading trash collected from roadsides onto the doorsteps of alleged repeat offenders.

Senior advocate G.R. Mohan said the move has no legal basis, warning that such acts could themselves amount to public nuisance. "If citizens can be booked under public nuisance for littering, the same provisions apply to officials dumping garbage at private doorsteps," he said, recalling a similar case years ago when waste contractors dumped garbage at Freedom Park over unpaid dues. "We challenged that too in court," he added.

Mohan urged the civic body to adhere strictly to the Union government's Solid Waste Management Rules and adopt scientific disposal practices instead of resorting



to public humiliation.

Advocate Vasanth Adithya termed the campaign "ridiculous and legally untenable." He said, "There is no provision in municipal or governance laws that authorises such actions. Instead of sensitising citizens, the authorities are indulging in tokenism." He further noted that the move increases pressure on civic workers already burdened with heavy workloads.

Advocate Sushma Naveen questioned the logic behind the initiative, saying it reflects misplaced priorities. "If garbage collection vehicles fail to turn up, can residents dump waste at the commissioner's house?" she asked. "GBA and BSWML are statutory bodies with defined responsibilities — their job is not to reform individuals but to ensure efficient waste management," she added.

Legal experts urged the government to focus on systemic improvements rather than public shaming.

Youth Sets Gifted
Bike on Fire
amid Financial
Struggles

BENGALURU

In a bizarre act of frustration, a youth identified as Yashwanth set his own motorbike ablaze in the middle of the road under Basaveshwara Nagar police station limits on Sunday night. The incident occurred around 9 pm near Havanur Circle, where Yashwanth reportedly set his Pulsar bike on fire before fleeing the scene. Fire brigade personnel arrived promptly and extinguished the flames, preventing the fire from spreading to nearby vehicles. Basaveshwara Nagar police later traced and arrested Yashwanth in connection with the incident.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Yashwanth, who was under severe financial distress, had been involved in a dispute over the bike's ownership. The two-wheeler, reportedly gifted to him by an acquaintance, was still registered in the donor's name.

Sources said Yashwanth had attempted to mortgage the bike for money to support his unwell parents but was unable to do so due to the ownership issue. Overcome by frustration and anger, he allegedly set the vehicle on fire in a fit of rage.

Police have booked him for causing public nuisance and property damage, and further investigation into the case is underway.

Psychologist and lifestyle coach Sailaja Manacha highlighted that Bengaluru's fast-paced tech culture and start-up ecosystem have worsened workplace burnout. "Capitalism and unrealistic corporate expectations make people chase bigger dreams at the cost of mental peace," she observed.

An expert panel noted that suicide stems from multifactorial causes. Arjun Kapoor from the Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy said suicides arise from issues such as domestic violence, bullying, caste discrimination, and agrarian distress.

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QUICK READ



Woman brutally murdered in Shivamogga

Shivamogga

In a shocking incident early this morning, a 45-year-old woman named Gangamma was brutally murdered with a sharp weapon at Siddheshwar Nagar, Dummalli, in Shivamogga taluk. Preliminary reports suggest that the killing may have been motivated by old enmity. Police have taken two suspects, Nagesh Naik and Harish, into custody and are interrogating them in connection with the case. Officers from Tunganagar police station visited the crime scene to conduct a thorough investigation. Authorities are examining the circumstances surrounding the murder and have urged locals to cooperate with the ongoing inquiry while assuring that strict action will be taken against those responsible.

Shopkeeper arrested for sexually assaulting 5-year-old girl

Chikkballapur

A shopkeeper, Gopala Reddy, was arrested in Dibburahalli village of Sidlaghatta taluk for allegedly sexually assaulting a five-year-old girl. The accused reportedly lured the child with a chocolate before forcibly kissing her and biting her on the chest. The incident came to light after the victim informed her family, who promptly lodged a complaint with the local police. Acting swiftly, authorities took Gopala Reddy into custody. The case has shocked the rural community, raising concerns over child safety in neighborhood shops. Police are investigating further to ensure justice. The minor is receiving medical care and counseling.



Organisers urge relaxation of conditions for 'Dana Bedarisuva Spardhe'

HAVERI

The traditional bull-racing contest, locally known as 'Dana Bedarisuva Spardhe' is one of North Karnataka's most celebrated rural sports. However, this year, the district administration has imposed 18 strict conditions for granting permission to host the event, stating that only after these requirements are met will approval be given.

Opposing the decision, the organisers have submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner seeking relaxation of at least five of the conditions. The president of the organising committee, Sandeep Patil, said the stringent rules are discouraging farmers from hosting the traditional festival that has been part of local culture for generations.

The organisers pointed out

CM warns against making citizens run between offices

CM cautioned officials against forcing citizens to visit offices unnecessarily, emphasizing local grievance redressal and education improvements

MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah issued a stern warning to officials, stating that he will not tolerate forcing citizens to visit government offices unnecessarily. Speaking at the district-level Karnataka Quarterly Development (KDP) meeting held at the Abdul Nazir Sab auditorium, Siddaramaiah noted that people from Mysuru often travel to Bengaluru seeking redressal of their issues, many of which could be resolved locally if officials addressed grievances at the district or taluk level. "It is unacceptable to make citizens run from office to office. Officials must proactively resolve problems in Mysuru itself," he emphasized.

The CM highlighted the district's decline in the education index from seventh to fourteenth position as a matter



of serious concern. He instructed the newly appointed DDPI to ensure significant improvements in SSC and PU results during their tenure and directed the preparation of a detailed blueprint for achieving better educational outcomes. He stressed that Mysuru's administration must focus on both district development and resolving citizens' issues efficiently.

Siddaramaiah also remind-

ed officials that previous KDP meetings had emphasized timely completion of projects, but progress remained slow. He urged CEOs, inspectors, PDOs, and other officers to personally inspect schools, hospitals, and hostels to ensure accountability. Complaints about officers failing to visit offices unnoticed were noted, and the CM instructed the District Commissioner to report any lapses.

Commending the administration for the historic and successful Dasara festival, he warned that misconduct by officials and staff could tarnish reputations and directed strict action against absentees or negligent employees. The meeting was attended by District In-Charge Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, MP Sunil Bose, MLAs Tanveer Seth and other officials.

Karkala hosts 'Dalit Shakti Sammavesh' under Cong banner

KARKALA

In alignment with the Constitution's principles of equality and justice, the Congress party has implemented reservation policies, empowering Dalits, backward classes, and marginalized communities to lead dignified lives, stated Congress leader Uday Shetty Muniyalu. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 'Dalit Shakti Sammavesh' held at the auditorium of Sri Adishakti Veerabhadra Temple, Gandhi Maidan, Karkala, jointly organized by Block Congress Karkala, City Congress Committee, and the City Scheduled Caste Unit.

Block Congress President Shubhada Rao emphasized that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution eliminated social evils like untouchability and caste discrimination. He added that Mallikarjun Kharge,

the All India Congress Committee President, proudly represents the Dalit community, reflecting the respect Congress extends to marginalized groups. Udupi District Spokesperson Bipin Chandra Paul Nakre highlighted that the Constitution grants every citizen rights, duties, and freedom, ensuring recognition within society's mainstream.

Senior Congress leader and prominent Dalit activist Dr. Premadas said no other party has supported Dalits as Congress has, warning that the BJP is attempting to mislead Dalit voters for political gain.

The event also recognized nominees from the Karnataka government including Ramesh Pattonjikkatte, Shobha Rane, and Manju Tellaru. Other dignitaries present included Udupi District Vice President Sudhakar Kotyan, Taluk Committee Head Ajit Hegde Mal, City Congress President Rajendra Devadig, Scheduled Caste Unit member Pratima Rane, Dalit leader Annappa Nakre, and various other local leaders. Meghana led prayers, while Devadas welcomed attendees, and Pradeep Beladi hosted the program.



MAN DUPED OF ₹1.3 CR, WOMAN LOSES ₹25.9 LAKH

HUBBALLI/DAVANAGERE

Two major cyber fraud cases have surfaced in Karnataka, with victims from Hubballi and Davanagere losing a combined total of over ₹1.5 crore to online scammers.

In Hubballi, Abraham J. fell prey to a cryptocurrency investment scam and lost ₹1.30 crore. The victim was contacted on Facebook by a woman identifying herself as Diya Khanna, who enticed him with promises of high profits through crypto trading. She shared a link to a website and guided him through the registration process.

Encouraged by early signs of profit displayed on the fake site, Abraham continued investing larger sums.

However, when he attempted to withdraw his funds, he found that the portal was inaccessible and realized he had been conned. A case has been filed at the CEN police station, and an investigation is in progress to trace the culprits

behind the online scam. In another incident, a 35-year-old woman from Davanagere was cheated of ₹25.93 lakh by a fraudster named Madhu, a resident of Mandya.

The accused befriended the victim through a matrimony website, earning her trust before promising to secure railway jobs for her brothers. Believing his assurances, she transferred the money in multiple installments to his bank account. After Madhu failed to deliver on his promises and stopped responding, the woman lodged a complaint with the CEN police.

Both cases highlight the growing sophistication of cybercrimes targeting unsuspecting individuals through emotional manipulation and false promises.

Police have urged the public to remain vigilant and verify the authenticity of online investment or job offers before sharing personal or financial information.

50% discount on Kannada Book Authority publications

CHITRADURGA

To celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava 2025, the Kannada Book Authority (KBA) is offering a 50% discount on all its publications throughout November. Book lovers are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. The discount is available at the Siri Kannada Bookstore in Kannada Bhavan, Bengaluru (Contact: 080-22107705), at all district-level offices of the Department of Kannada and Culture, and at all Siri Kannada bookstores run by the KBA. Additionally, the offer is available online at KBA website. The Kannada Book Authority has published over 700 titles across various genres including biographies, plays, folk literature, medical texts, ancient Kannada literature, environmental studies, and agriculture. According to KBA Administrator K.B. Kiran Singh, the initiative aims to make high-quality, scholarly Kannada literature accessible to the general public at affordable prices.



Fmr Min Rai urges strict legal action against MP Kageri

MANGALURU

Former Minister B. Ramanath Rai has demanded that the government take strict legal action against MP Vishwa Hegde Kageri for making controversial statements regarding India's national anthem, Jana Gana Mana. Speaking at a press conference at the Congress Bhavan on Monday, Rai criticized Kageri, who has held constitutional positions including MLA, minister, and Speaker, saying his remarks were a blatant disrespect to the Constitution.

Rai emphasized the historic and emotional significance of Jana Gana Mana, composed by Rabindranath Tagore on December 11, 1911, and first sung at the Congress session in Kolkata on December 28, 1911. The anthem was played for the first time at midnight on August 14, 1947, when India gained independence, and was formally adopted as the national anthem by the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950.

Rai stated that Kageri's statements insulted this proud symbol of national pride and heritage, constituting a grave affront to the history of the national anthem.

Highlighting legal provisions, Rai pointed out that disrespecting the national anthem can attract a prison term of up to three years. He urged the government to initiate legal proceedings against Kageri to uphold respect for the national symbol. When

Ramanath Rai has called for strict legal action against MP Vishwa Hegde Kageri for making controversial remarks about India's national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, emphasizing its historic significance and urging the government to uphold respect for the national symbol

questioned about Congress's silence over the matter, Rai clarified that every citizen has the right to demand legal action against anyone who disrespects the national anthem, and he, as a citizen, has exercised this right by calling for action against Kageri.

The press conference was attended by prominent Congress leaders including former Mayor Shashidhar Hegde, DK District Sevalad President Joquin D'Souza, District Urban Congress President Appi, District Congress Secretary Yogesh, Gurupura Block Congress President Padmanabha Kotyan Padu, KPCC Women's Congress Secretary Manjula Nayak, District Congress Vice Presidents Sudarshan Jain, Chittaranjan Shetty, KPCC member Prathviraj, District Congress Secretary Bavu Kudroli, and Congress General Secretaries T.K. Sudheer, R. Sajith Shetty, and Shabeer Siddakatte, along with office secretary Nazir Bajal.

Tigress and cubs captured near Gundlupet village

CHAMARAJANAGAR

In a successful operation by the Forest Department, a tigress and her three cubs were captured near Kallahalli village in Gundlupet taluk during the early hours of Monday. The big cat had reportedly been attacking cattle in nearby farms and instilling fear among local residents for the past few weeks.

Acting on complaints from

villagers, forest officials intensified monitoring using camera traps and successfully located the tigress. The animal was later tranquillised and safely captured along with her cubs. Officials confirmed that all four tigers are in good health and have been relocated to a safer forest zone. The operation has brought immense relief to farmers and villagers who had been living in fear due to repeated cattle losses.

Farmers threaten suicide over land survey negligence in Kodagu

MADIKERI

Farmers in Kodagu district staged a dramatic protest on Monday, holding bottles of poison in their hands and threatening to end their lives if the government failed to rectify land survey errors. The protest took place in front of the Tahsildar's office in Somwarpet, where farmers accused the revenue officials of delaying land demarcation (podi) corrections for years.

The agitated farmers said that despite multiple visits to the revenue department, their

grievances have remained unresolved. Officials have repeatedly assured them of action but failed to follow through, they claimed. "Even after the District Commissioner's assurance during our last protest, three months have passed without any progress," the protesters said in frustration.

Farmers highlighted that without proper land survey corrections, they are unable to secure bank loans or avail agricultural benefits. "If the corrections are not made by this evening, we will consume poison," one of the farmers

warned, adding that if anything happened to him, the Revenue Minister, Secretary, and District Commissioner should be held responsible.

Somwarpet Tahsildar later met the farmers and urged them to withdraw their protest, assuring that their concerns would be raised during an upcoming video conference with the Revenue Minister. However, the farmers refused to relent, giving officials until the evening to resolve the issue and warning that continued neglect could lead to tragic consequences.

BAR COUNCIL ENROLLMENT

Bar Council can't deny out-of-state law graduates: HC

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that law graduates from any institution in India recognized by the Bar Council of India (BCI) are eligible to register with the State Bar Council where they intend to practice, irrespective of where they completed their law degree.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj delivered the judgment while

hearing a petition filed by Rajashekar, whose application for enrolment with the Karnataka State Bar Council was rejected because he obtained his degree from Monad University in Uttar Pradesh.

During the proceedings, the court sought clarification from the Bar Council of India's counsel on whether any restriction existed on such enrolments. The BCI confirmed that no such limitation was in

place and that Section 24 of the Advocates Act, 1961 allows any qualified law graduate from an approved college in India to register with any State Bar Council. Specific procedures apply only in cases of transfer of registration between councils.

The court observed that since Rajashekar graduated

from a college affiliated with the BCI, the Karnataka Bar Council had no grounds to deny his enrollment. Justice Govindaraj emphasized that there is no statutory requirement mandating graduates to enroll only in the State where they studied law.

Accordingly, the High Court directed the Karnataka State Bar Council to enroll

Rajashekar as an advocate on the next available date. It further ordered that, in the future, the Bar Council must consider applications from candidates who have completed their law degrees outside Karnataka, provided their credentials are verified. The petitioner was represented by Advocate Vaibhav Ravi Malimath, while Advocate Anubha Srivastava appeared for the respondent Bar Council.



Phase-2 will see bumper turnout and NDA to form govt: Maurya

‘There is a clear NDA wave in the Bihar Assembly elections, which has created panic and confusion within the Mahagathbandhan’

LUCKNOW

Voting for the second phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, covering 122 constituencies, is scheduled for November 11.

Ahead of polling, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Monday expressed confidence that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will return to power in Bihar with a decisive majority. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, speaking to media, said, I appeal to all voters to turn out in large numbers in the second phase, just as they did in the first phase. There is a clear NDA wave in the Bihar Assembly elections, which has created panic and confusion within the Mahagathbandhan. He asserted that the NDA



government would once again be formed in Bihar with a thumping majority. The people have expressed their faith in the NDA. The NDA has served the country with commitment, and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been serving Bihar continuously for the past 20 years. The people are satisfied with his governance. Meanwhile, internal conflict continues within the Mahagathbandhan, as leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav do not want Tejashwi Yadav to be-

come Chief Minister, Maurya claimed.

Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak echoed similar sentiments, stating that the NDA was poised to secure a sweeping victory. The NDA is ready to form the government with a massive majority in the second phase. People are rising above caste, religion, and community lines to vote for development and stability under the NDA, he said. The campaign for the final phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, scheduled for Tuesday (November 11).

A total of 122 constituencies across 20 districts will go to the polls in this phase. In the first phase, polling was held for 121 seats across 18 districts. This time, 1,302 candidates are contesting, including 136 women — about 10 per cent of the total.

NHRC issues notices over RJD viral poll song

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Chief Election Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar, and district authorities in Samastipur over a viral election song allegedly promoted by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) workers that featured minor children and propagated caste-based hatred. A Bench led by NHRC Member Priyank Kanoongo took cognisance of a complaint claiming that the video, widely circulated on social media, showed minor children singing provocative



political slogans allegedly designed to promote RJD's political interests.

The complaint stated that the song's language was divisive and inflammatory, promoting caste-based animosity in society while exploiting minors for political propaganda — a violation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of

Children) Act, 2015.

The complainant also argued that involving children in such political messaging endangered their psychological well-being and undermined democratic and constitutional values enshrined in Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(a), and 21 of the Constitution. The NHRC observed that the allegations, if true, indicated a serious violation of the human rights of the minors involved and a breach of Election Commission guidelines that prohibit using children in election campaigns.

Seeking accountability, the Commission directed

the Chief Election Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar, the District Election Commissioner-cum-Deputy Commissioner of Samastipur, and the Superintendent of Police to conduct a detailed inquiry. It also urged authorities to take immediate preventive measures to stop the exploitation of minors in any future political or caste-driven campaigns.

The NHRC emphasized that such incidents undermine democratic ethics and the welfare of children, stressing the need for strict action to deter political misuse of minors during elections.

QUICK READ



Bihar cops tighten security for second phase polling

Patna

Ahead of the second phase of polling in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, security agencies are on high alert in the state. Bihar Police has made all security arrangements for the polling that is scheduled to be held on November 11. Security is expected to be even tighter as compared to the first phase of polling on November 6. Voting will take place in 122 Assembly constituencies across 20 districts in the second phase on Tuesday. Many of these districts share international and interstate borders and Bihar Police has heightened vigilance in these areas.

Bengal industrialist, family under scanner for Rs 300 cr scam

Kolkata

An industrialist has been under the scanner of the Bengal Police in a cyber-crime case of Rs 300 crore, said sources on Monday, adding that over a thousand people across the state and the country were victims of fraud through multiple methods, including fake investment apps. The police have received complaints that a part of the money from the fraud was transferred through the bank accounts of the industrialist, his company and family members in Kolkata. Recently, an investigation was launched into this. The police are verifying the information that has come to light before taking any concrete action.

'Bengal will teach BJP a lesson as it taught Left in 2011'

Kolkata

The people of West Bengal will teach BJP a lesson as they had taught the CPI(M)-led Left Front in the state in 2011, the Trinamool Congress' general secretary and the party's Lok Sabha member commented on Monday on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the massacre in Nandigram of East Midnapore district in which 14 people were killed in police firing on this day in 2007. However, instead of directly naming the BJP, Banerjee described the saffron camp as the zamindars of Delhi.

Those who deny terrorism's religion should take note: Giriraj Singh

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Giriraj Singh has lauded the swift action by the Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir Police after a massive cache of explosives, timers, and an assault rifle was recovered in Faridabad, leading to the arrest of two Kashmiri doctors.

Singh said the incident exposed the fallacy of the claim that terrorism has no religion.

Praising the prompt operation, Singh credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

leadership for ensuring timely intervention. I want to thank the government for acting in time and apprehending the suspect — credit goes to

Prime Minister Modi, Singh stated. Those who say terrorism has no religion should take note: the person caught is a doctor involved in what appears to be religious terrorism, possessing around 300 kg of explosives that could have shaken not just Faridabad but Delhi. The Union Minister further remarked that while the



The Union Minister praised police action in Faridabad and said terrorism's religious roots must no longer be ignored

intent behind the terror plot remains under investigation, the case should serve as a warning to political leaders. It may have been aimed at disrupting the Baba Bageshwar Yatra — I'm not certain — but leaders like Akhilesh Yadav, Rahul Gandhi, and Lalu Yadav will remain silent because this doctor represents their vote

CM to release Rs 300 cr for Soybean growers on November 13

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will release the first installment of payments under the state government's Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana for soybean farmers on November 13.

The announcement was made during a Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister on Monday, according to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister Chetanya Kumar Kashyap.

During a press briefing, Minister Kashyap stated that the Chief Minister will transfer Rs 300 crore directly into the bank accounts of 1.32 lakh farmers who sold their soybean crops and are registered under the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana. Each farmer will receive around Rs 1,300 per quintal for their produce in their accounts on November 13, he said.

The state government has procured approximately 2.70 lakh tonnes of soybean from more than 1.60 lakh farmers

across Madhya Pradesh. The procurement has been done at the prevailing mandi (market) rates, which fluctuate daily. Currently, the average mandi price for soybeans stands at Rs 4,036 per quintal, while the government's Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the crop this year is Rs 5,328 per quintal.

To compensate farmers for the difference between the market rate and the MSP, the government has decided to provide direct financial support through the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Chief Minister Yadav had earlier announced in September that the scheme would be implemented for soybean farmers this year to ensure fair remuneration despite volatile market prices.

Madhya Pradesh, often referred to as India's soya bowl, remains the country's largest producer of soybean, with the Malwa region at its heart owing to its fertile black cotton soil and strong agricultural base.



Delhi court defers land-for-job scam order to December 4

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday deferred to December 4 the order on framing of charges in the alleged land-for-job scam involving RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, son Tejashwi Yadav, and others. Special

bank, he said.

Echoing similar views, Uttar Pradesh Minister Anil Rajbhar blamed political appeasement for emboldening extremist elements. Those who offer protection to manipulate votes end up encouraging terrorists. In contrast, the government's decisive actions are focused on eliminating terrorism completely from the nation's soil, Rajbhar stated.

The massive seizure and arrests have triggered serious security reviews across north-east India, with agencies investigating possible links to larger terror networks.

CBI Judge Vishal Gogne is hearing the case filed by the CBI, which accuses Lalu of giving railway jobs in exchange for land during his tenure as Railway Minister from 2004 to 2009. The accused have denied the charges, calling the case politically motivated.

SC refuses to entertain MP Singh's plea challenging detention under NSA

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea filed by Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh challenging his continued detention under the National Security Act (NSA).

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N.V. Anjaria observed that the appropriate course for the petitioner would be to first move the jurisdictional High Court. Considering the duration of his continued detention, the Justice Aravind Kumar-led Bench requested the High Court to conclude the proceedings within six weeks.

In his writ petition, Amritpal Singh — currently lodged in Dibrugarh Central Jail in

Assam — contended that preventing an elected Member of Parliament from discharging his constitutional duties amounted to a violation of his fundamental rights as well as the collective rights of the Khadoor Sahib electorate.

The 31-year-old chief of 'Waris Punjab De' was arrested on March 18, 2023, following a major crackdown, and subsequently detained under NSA provisions.

Despite being incarcerated, the 31-year-old Sikh radical won the Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha seat as an Independent candidate by a margin of 1,97,120 votes over Congress rival Kulbir Singh Zira. He was briefly granted a four-day parole to take oath in the Lok Sabha, a move cleared after

the National Investigation Agency (NIA) offered no objection.

His case has drawn comparisons to other incarcerated leaders permitted to take the oath, including Engineer Rashid from Jammu and Kashmir.

The NSA detention of Amritpal and nine of his aides has remained under scrutiny, especially after the jail's Superintendent, Nipen Das, was arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Assam Prisons Act for allegedly supplying unauthorised gadgets inside the facility. Assam Police said the devices allowed Amritpal Singh access to the Internet, enabling him to expand his reach from inside the jail.

'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', uniting visitors through light, art, and culture.

At the Prakash Parv Pavilion, five lighting technologies -- including LED, RGB Neon Flex, Colour Laser Projection, Smart Synchronised, and Solar-powered systems -- were used to create the spectacular decorations. The 530-metre stretch from the main road to the Valley of Flowers featured ceiling lights, themed selfie points, and photo-booths resembling a galaxy of colours.

Family of ISIS-linked terrorist from UP's Shamli seeks fair probe

SHAMLI

One of the three men arrested by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) for alleged links to the Islamic State (ISIS) has been identified as Azad, a resident of Jhijnjhana town in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district. His family has denied any knowledge of his association with any terror group and demanded a fair investigation into the case. The Gujarat ATS had arrested three individuals -- Ahmed Mohiuddin Syed, Mohammad Suhel, and Azad -- who, according to officials, had been under surveillance for nearly a year. The trio was reportedly apprehended while attempting to supply weapons. Azad's brother, Shahzad, who also spoke to the ATS after the arrest, said that Azad had gone to Budhana in Muzaffarnagar district three days ago.

He had gone to Budhana, where his niece also lives. He had promised to bring her home. This afternoon, I received a call from the Gujarat ATS, stating that my brother had been arrested. When I asked them to contact him, they said they would speak in two to three hours. Since then, there has been no contact with Azad or the ATS team, Shahzad told media. He further said that no criminal case had ever been registered against his brother. If my brother is a traitor, he should be punished; if he is innocent, he should be released, Shahzad added, urging authorities to conduct an impartial investigation.

LIGHTS OF UNITY

Statue of Unity shines bright in tribute to Sardar Patel

GANDHINAGAR

Ekta Nagar, home to the world's tallest statue, the 182-metre Statue of Unity, transformed into a panorama of lights during the Bharat Parv celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The region's major attractions, including the Jungle Safari, Cactus Garden, Butterfly Garden, Circuit House, Ekta Mall, and administrative buildings, glittered with colourful illuminations that drew thousands of visitors, as shared by officials on Mon-

day. The illuminations began and will continue for around ten days.

In Indian tradition, light symbolises the removal of darkness and the presence of spiritual energy. Reflecting this belief, Ekta Nagar shimmered like a bride, its landscape bathed in vibrant hues and artistic lighting displays that showcased India's unity in diversity. From the towering statue to the Sardar Sarovar Dam, Tricolour laser lights illuminated the night sky, turning the area into a living canvas of patriotism and culture. Local artisans



and designers contributed to the dazzling setup, blending modern lighting technologies with traditional motifs.

The installations, featuring intricate floral patterns, gold-

en embellishments, and classical forms, spanned over seven kilometres from Ekta Dwar to the Statue of Unity. Tourists enthusiastically captured the scenes in countless selfies and photographs, turning the illumination into a social media sensation. The celebrations also highlighted India's cultural richness, with folk art, music, handicrafts, and traditional cuisine from various states creating a festive atmosphere along the Narmada River. Jointly organised by the Centre and state government, the event celebrated the spirit of

QUICK READ

People's verdict against Vijayan government

Thiruvananthapuram
As Kerala heads to the local body elections, top Congress leaders on Monday said the polls will serve as a referendum on the Pinarayi Vijayan government's nine-and-a-half-year rule, marked by corruption, mismanagement, and an assault on public faith. The upcoming Kerala local body elections will be held in two phases on December 9 and 11, and counting of votes will take place on December 13th. AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal, Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan, and KPCC president Sunny Joseph said the United Democratic Front (UDF).

UP makes singing 'Vande Mataram' mandatory in schools

Moradabad
As the Uttar Pradesh government announced that singing 'Vande Mataram' will be made mandatory in all schools and educational institutions across the state, Samajwadi Party leader S.T. Hasan on Monday asked why it is being linked with patriotism. Speaking to IANS, former MP Hasan said: Muslims have been opposing 'Vande Mataram' for the past 150 years. The reason is that it contains ideas that go against Islam. We cannot worship anything other than Allah. In 'Vande Mataram', the land is being worshipped. If we worship anything other than Allah, it means including someone else in Allah's divinity, which is strictly prohibited in our Holy Quran.

Four held with sophisticated weapons

CHANDIGARH

In a major intelligence-led operation, Punjab Police's State Special Operation Cell (SSOC) Amritsar has averted potential targeted killings in the state with the arrest of four members of a gangster module and recovered two sophisticated weapons from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav here on Monday. Those arrested have been identified as Jagpreet Singh, alias Jagga, Mohammad Singh, Lavish Nahar, and Amarbir Singh.

The recovered weapons include one 9MM Glock pistol with a magazine and five cartridges, and one .30 bore Star Mark pistol with a magazine and three cartridges. DGP Yadav said preliminary investigations have revealed that the arrested accused were in close contact with a Portugal-based wanted gangster and were working under his direction. The foreign-based handler was the one who had arranged the delivery of the weapons recovered in this case, he said.

Probe has further disclosed that the accused had conducted a recce of specific targets in the Batala and Amritsar area, and the recovered so-

Cities with over 2 lakh population to get urban co-op banks: HM

'Urban cooperative banks must come forward for the empowerment of aspirational youth and the lower-class population'

NEW DELHI

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Monday announced that every city in India with a population of more than two lakh will soon have an urban cooperative bank.

The announcement came during the inauguration of the Cooperative Kumbh 2025 (CoopKumbh 2025), an international conference dedicated to strengthening the urban cooperative credit sector.

Highlighting the importance of cooperative banking for social empowerment, Shah said, Urban cooperative banks must come forward for the empow-

erment of aspirational youth and the lower-class population. Our goal is to strengthen cooperation and uplift the weaker sections of society. He urged urban cooperative banks to extend financial assistance to small traders, local entrepreneurs, and self-employed youth, ensuring wider financial inclusion and sustainable development.

Shah also encouraged the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB) to formulate moral guidelines to help banks redesign their financial frameworks to better serve communities. Discussing initiatives to



strengthen the cooperative ecosystem, Shah said the newly established Tribhuvan Cooperative University will train professionals to lead the sector into a new era by 2047. He added that the institution aims

to connect India's youth with cooperative development and innovation.

The minister further lauded the contributions of Amul and IFFCO, noting that Amul's collection of 30 million litres of milk daily drives the White Revolution, while IFFCO's 9.3 million tonnes of fertilizer production supports India's Green Revolution, with exports to over 40 countries.

The two-day event, themed Digitising Dreams – Empowering Communities, is organized by NAFCUB under the Ministry of Cooperation, aiming to strengthen the cooperative foundation for financial inclusion and innovation.

Goyal, US delegation explore collab in AI, clean energy

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday met with a US business delegation led by Utah Senate President Stuart Adams to discuss strengthening bilateral collaboration in emerging and strategic sectors. The discussions covered a wide range of areas including artificial intelligence (AI), clean energy, minerals, academia and research, biotechnology, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing.

In a post on X, Goyal highlighted the importance of innovation-driven partnerships between India and the US, stating that driven by innovation and youthful dynamism, there lies immense potential to shape a future of shared growth and prosperity. He emphasized that India is keen to engage in meaningful cooperation with technologically ad-



vanced nations to contribute mutually to global progress.

Goyal also reiterated that India is in advanced stages of trade discussions with both the European Union (EU) and the United States. He noted that every trade agreement must align with India's comparative advantage, focusing on balanced outcomes beyond tariff considerations. We have set a target of doubling our trade in goods and services with the US to \$500 billion by 2030, he said.

Addressing the ongoing tariff issues, Goyal acknowledged that the US has im-

posed a 25 percent penal tariff on India for oil purchases from Russia, in addition to reciprocal duties on Indian exports. Calling these measures unfair and unreasonable, he said both nations are engaged in constructive dialogue to reach a fair and equitable trade agreement.

The minister affirmed that India will not rush into any deal but will seek one that ensures long-term economic benefits and preserves its trade autonomy. The meeting underscored India's growing role as a global economic partner and innovation hub.

Gujarat plot to poison water exposes IS's new tactic

NEW DELHI

The Islamic State has been evolving its strategy and has now moved on from lone wolf attacks to attempting to poison the water at many places in India.

These revelations came to light after the police in Gujarat foiled a major Islamic State-inspired plot that involved the use of ricin, which is a highly toxic compound that is derived from castor seeds.

Ricin, recognised as a potent naturally occurring toxin, is classified as a Category B bioterrorism agent and also a Schedule I controlled substance under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

HC seeks clarity from SEC on municipal polls

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Monday directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to specify the timeline for holding elections to municipal corporations and urban local bodies in the state. A bench led by Justice Ananda Sen issued the order while hearing a contempt petition regarding the prolonged delay in conducting the polls. The court asked the SEC to submit a detailed report outlining the proposed election schedule and to explain the reasons for the delay, along with the steps needed

from the state government to expedite the process.

Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan, representing the state, informed the court that the government has submitted the report of the 'triple test' exercise—necessary for determining reservation of seats for backward classes—to the SEC. He added that additional details such as ward-wise reservation data and updated population figures would be provided soon, after which the election notification could be issued. However, SEC counsel Sumeet Gadodia said the Commission has not yet re-

ceived a complete and clear report from the government. He noted that once the report is finalized, the SEC would need around three months to conduct the entire election process. The contempt petition was filed by former Ranchi Municipal Corporation councillor Roshni Khalkho and Reena Kumari, seeking enforcement of the court's earlier order directing timely municipal elections. The High Court had, on January 4, 2024, ordered polls within three weeks, a directive that remains unfulfilled. The matter will next be heard on November 24.

Gujarat pushes 'Har Ghar Swadeshi' mission with high-level strategy

GANDHINAGAR

In a bid to accelerate the 'Har Ghar Swadeshi' campaign and promote the Make in India initiative at the grassroots level, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Monday chaired a crucial strategy meeting in Gandhinagar. Held under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, the session brought together heads and senior officers from all state departments to deliberate on ways to embed the use of locally made products in public and citizen-oriented programs.

The primary focus of the

meeting was to raise public awareness and encourage the adoption of Indian-made goods. Officers discussed comprehensive strategies for motivating citizens to choose domestic products over imports, ensuring that government-led programs maximise the use of local items.

Emphasis was also laid on enhancing product quality to boost demand and preparing a mission-mode approach to take the 'Har Ghar Swadeshi' initiative to the next level.

Deputy CM Sanghavi urged all departments to lead by example by adopting Swadeshi alternatives internally, noting



that visible use of local products by government offices would send a strong positive message to citizens and give momentum to the campaign.

The meeting was attended by Pradeepsinh Jadeja, State In-Charge for the Atmanir-

Delhi CM leads BJP's roadshow ahead of MCD by-polls in Delhi

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday joined the roadshow of Anita Jain, BJP's candidate from Shalimar Bagh-B ward, ahead of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) by-elections scheduled for November 30. Gupta also attended the nomination ceremony of Veena Asija, the BJP candidate from Ashok Vihar, Ward 65, marking an energetic start to the party's local election campaign.

Addressing the public response to the roadshow, CM Gupta posted on X, With your blessings, our resolve to develop Delhi has become even stronger. This blessing will further empower our commitment towards good governance, public trust, and transparent development.

Political observers view the upcoming by-elections as a significant barometer of the ruling Delhi government's popularity, particularly after the BJP's historic return to power in the Assembly earlier this year after 27 years.

Speaking about the campaign, Gupta said she witnessed unprecedented enthusiasm and affection from res-



idents during the Shalimar Bagh-B roadshow. The warmth and blessings from people reflect strong support for BJP across all 12 wards, including Shalimar Bagh-B, she added.

Earlier in the day, Gupta also performed a puja before Asija's nomination, extending her best wishes to the candidate. Veena Asija's dedication and diligence towards public service have earned her a special place among the people, the CM wrote on X.

Highlighting BJP's focus on women's representation, Gupta said, Out of our 12 candidates, 8 are women. This reflects our commitment to empowering women through leadership and participation. She concluded by expressing confidence that Delhi's citizens will continue to support the party's vision of service, development, and transparency.

Robbery, firing on trader sparks shutdown in Dhanbad market

DHANBAD

Traders on Monday launched a massive protest after a businessman was robbed and shot at inside the government-run Market Committee complex in the Barwadda police station area in Dhanbad, Jharkhand.

The incident has caused concerns over rising crime in Jharkhand's coal capital, prompting traders to shut all 417 shops in the market complex for the day. The attack took place around 8.30 p.m. when three bike-borne assailants intercepted trader Shyam Bhimsariya while he was closing his shop. The miscreants fired at him, snatched a bag containing Rs 4 lakh, and sped off. Bhimsariya narrowly escaped the bullet, which reportedly grazed past him. The incident created panic among shopkeepers and customers, many of whom rushed to safety. On Monday morning, hundreds of traders assembled at the main gate of the Market Committee complex, raising slogans against the administration and demanding immediate arrests. They alleged



that the market, which witnesses a heavy footfall, has long been operating without proper security measures.

The Market Committee complex is one of the busiest business hubs in Dhanbad, recording a daily turnover of Rs 7-8 crore. We will not tolerate this kind of atmosphere where traders fear for their lives every evening, a member of the traders' association said, adding that if the culprits are not arrested within 48 hours, the protest may spread to other markets across the district. BJP MP Dhullu Mahto, addressing traders, said criminals are roaming fearlessly in Dhanbad. The morale of criminals has gone up due to weak policing. The police must act immediately to restore confidence among traders, he said.

Gujarat's commitment to strengthening India's self-reliance agenda by linking policy, administration, and citizen participation in promoting local products. Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai paid a courtesy visit to Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar, ahead of his state's cultural participation and upcoming investor outreach programs. CM Sai is in Gujarat to encourage artists from Chhattisgarh performing at the ongoing Bharat Parv in Ekatnagar on the night of November 10, showcasing the state's rich cultural heritage.

Chhattisgarh CM meets Guj CM ahead of cultural, investment events

GANDHINAGAR

Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai met Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar ahead of Chhattisgarh's participation in Bharat Parv at Ekatnagar on November 10 and upcoming investor outreach programs. CM Sai appreciated Gujarat's success in attracting investments through the Vibrant Summit and expressed interest in adopting similar strategies.

CM Patel shared insights on Gujarat's Regional Vibrant Conferences promoting district-level industries and the 'Vocal for Local, Local to Global' vision enabling global market access. CM Sai also interacted with senior officials to understand Gujarat's industrial policies and investment facilitation. He visited the CM Dashboard to study real-time monitoring and citizen feedback systems, praising its transparency.

Young Model's death in Bhopal sparks suspicion

BHOPAL

A 27-year-old woman identified as Khusbu Ahirwar, who was pursuing a modelling career in Bhopal, died under suspicious circumstances at a private hospital on Monday morning. The police have launched an investigation following serious allegations from the family that she was assaulted before her death.

According to police sources, Khusbu had been living in

Bhopal for the past few years with her boyfriend, Qasim Khan, while working as a model for local brands. While returning from Ujjain with Qasim, she reportedly fell ill and lost consciousness. Qasim rushed her to a private hospital but fled soon after admitting her, raising suspicions about his involvement.

The hospital authorities informed the local police after Khusbu succumbed during treatment early on Monday.



Her body was sent to Hamidia Hospital for post-mortem, and her family was immediately notified. After the autopsy, her remains were handed over to her relatives.

Khusbu's mother, Laxmi Ahirwar, alleged that her daughter was brutally beaten to death. Her body had multiple injury marks, swelling on her face, and even injuries on her private parts, she told police, demanding strict punishment for those responsible.

Police officials confirmed that a case has been registered based on the family's complaint, and an investigation is underway. Khusbu's father stated that she had

dropped out of college after her first year and had been living independently in Bhopal for the past three years, working in modelling and part-time jobs.

Authorities are now tracing Qasim Khan, who remains absconding, as they await the post-mortem report to determine the exact cause of death. The incident has stirred outrage, with calls for justice growing across social media platforms.



ISRO-Mauritius to scale up space, satellite projects

The Indian space agency team’s visit marks another milestone in the growing strategic and scientific partnership between the two nations

PORT LOUIS

In a major step towards deepening space cooperation between India and Mauritius, a delegation from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) undertook a three-day visit to Mauritius as part of the India-Mauritius Joint Satellite initiative.

The visit marks another milestone in the growing strategic and scientific partnership between the two nations.

According to the Indian High Commission in Port Louis, the ISRO team held extensive technical sessions with the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) and convened the fourth Joint Working Group meeting on the satellite project.

The delegation also organised a half-day collaborative workshop focusing on the Joint Satellite, attended by Mauritian Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research Kaviraj Sukon, Indian Deputy High Commissioner Aparna Ganesan, and other



key officials.

The visit follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s trip to Mauritius in March, during which he and Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam held comprehensive discussions on enhancing bilateral relations. Both leaders reaffirmed that ongoing space cooperation has significantly benefited both countries, with Ramgoolam expressing deep appreciation for India’s continued support in developing the joint satellite, a symbol of

India’s commitment to Mauritius’s developmental aspirations.

To further advance this collaboration, the two leaders agreed to work closely on the successful development and launch of the India-Mauritius satellite. They also committed to training Mauritian scientists at ISRO and implementing advanced weather forecasting systems, Wave Rider Buoys, and a Multi-hazard Emergency System to strengthen Mauritius’s disaster

preparedness.

Additionally, ISRO and MRIC will renew cooperation on the ISRO Telemetry and Tracking Centre in Mauritius and explore new areas of collaboration in space technology and climate change. Both nations also agreed to pursue a development partnership project under the QUAD framework to utilise Earth observation applications for monitoring extreme weather events and assessing climate impacts in Mauritius.

QUICK READ



Yet another dengue death takes Sindh’s toll to 26

Islamabad

A teenage girl died due to dengue fever at the Sindh Infectious Diseases Hospital and Research Centre (SIDH&RC), taking the official death toll in the province since October to 26, local media reported on Monday. The statistics released by the provincial Health Department revealed that the 19-year-old girl was a resident of Sindh’s Korangi. Sources revealed that the victim had fits when she was taken to the hospital. Speaking to Dawn, a senior doctor at SIDH&RC stated: She reported to us with dengue encephalitis, a rare and severe complication of dengue fever, adding that the girl died a day after being admitted to the hospital.

Trump to attend swearing-in of new US Ambassador to India

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Monday will participate in the swearing-in ceremony of the new US ambassador to India and his close aide Sergio Gor.

In an email, the White House confirmed that Trump will participate in a Swearing-in Ceremony for the Ambassador to the Republic of India. Gor is expected to take charge in New Delhi soon after the swearing-in.

Confirmed by a Senate vote in October, the 38-year-old Gor will be the youngest US ambassador to India. He is one of the closest aides of Trump and was the Director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office, entrusted with vetting more than

4,000 posts in the new Trump administration.

In August, Trump announced his nomination on Truth Social. For the most populous Region in the World, it is important that I have someone I can fully trust to deliver on my Agenda and help us 'Make America Great Again'. Sergio will make an incredible Ambassador, Trump posted on August 22.

Gor would also serve as a special envoy for South and Central Asian affairs.

In September, Gor, during his Senate confirmation hearing, had called India a strategic partner whose trajectory will shape the region and beyond.

India’s geographic position, economic growth and military capabilities make it a cornerstone of regional stability and a critical part of promoting prosperity and advancing the security interests that our nations share.



India is one of the most important relationships our nation has in the world. I will work to deliver on a presidential agenda and advance US interests by increasing our defence cooperation, ensuring fair and beneficial trade deepening, energy security and furthering technology, he added. He also spoke about strengthening defence ties with India. I will prioritise deepening defence and security cooperation with India.

Lankan Navy arrests 14 fishermen from TN

COLOMBO

In yet another instance of cross-border tension in the Palk Strait, 14 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of Monday for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and venturing into Sri Lankan waters.

According to sources, the

fishermen had set out from Tharangambadi in Mayiladuthurai district on Saturday evening (November 8) aboard a mechanised fishing vessel registered from Vanagiri.

The crew, who had ventured into the high seas for routine fishing operations, reportedly encountered a mechanical snag mid-sea. In an effort to repair the fault, the vessel is believed to have

drifted off course and entered Sri Lankan waters near Point Pedro.

Sri Lankan naval personnel, who were patrolling the area as part of a routine surveillance mission, intercepted the boat during the early hours of Monday. The 14-member crew was arrested and their vessel seized. They were later taken to Kankesanthurai Naval Base in northern Sri Lanka for questioning.

BIGGER ROLE

S.Korea calls for greater ASEAN role in Korean Peninsula

SEOUL

South Korea’s Unification Minister Chung Dong-young met Thai Ambassador Tane Sangrat on Monday, expressing hope that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) would assume a more active role in promoting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

I expect ASEAN to play a greater role in promoting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, with the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) at its centre, Chung said during the meeting at his office in central Seoul.

For the 2024–27 period, Thailand serves as the country coordinator between ASEAN and South Korea and hosts the largest North Korean Embassy among ASEAN members. Chung highlighted that the security situation in



Northeast Asia directly and indirectly impacts ASEAN, noting the region’s growing engagement with Pyongyang. He also referred to the attendance of Southeast Asian leaders at North Korea’s recent military parade, emphasising ASEAN’s influence in shaping North Korea’s international outreach.

Ambassador Sangrat reaffirmed Thailand’s commitment to supporting South Korea’s peace efforts, stating that Bangkok would continue to encourage the constructive use of the ARF, which includes North Korea among its

members.

Meanwhile, on November 1, defence chiefs from ASEAN and its dialogue partners gathered in Kuala Lumpur for the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), focusing on peace and security cooperation amid regional challenges such as China’s assertiveness and North Korea’s military provocations.

The forum, chaired by Malaysian Defence Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin, marked its 15th anniversary under the theme ASEAN Unity for Security and Prosperity. Participants included South Korean Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, and Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, who jointly reiterated their commitment to maintaining regional peace and stability.

Chinese fishing boat capsizes near Korea, with 9 missing

SEOUL

A Chinese fishing boat capsized off the southwestern coast of South Korea on Monday, leaving nine people unaccounted for, officials said. The 99-tonne vessel was reported to have turned over some 150 kilometres southwest of the island of Eocheong at 8:53 a.m., the Gun-san Coast Guard said, citing a distress call from the Chinese coast guard.

Of the 11 people aboard, two were rescued by a passing cargo ship, while nine remained missing. Four patrol vessels and helicopters have been deployed to the site to search for the crew members.

The accident occurred just a day after another Chinese fishing vessel capsized in southwestern waters, leaving two Chinese crew members dead and three others missing. The remaining six crew members were rescued by nearby vessels. Earlier on November 9, a Chinese fishing boat cap-

sized off South Korea’s southwestern Gageo Island, leaving three crew members missing and two others in cardiac arrest, Coast Guard officials had said.

The 98-tonne vessel sank in international waters about 80 kilometres off Gageo Island at around 6:50 a.m., according to officials.

Of the 11 people on board, six were initially rescued by another Chinese vessel operating nearby. The Coast Guard had rescued two more who were drifting at sea, but both were found in cardiac arrest and rushed to a hospital, officials had said.

The Coast Guard said a search operation was under way for the three missing fishermen in cooperation with its Chinese counterpart.

The most prominent recent boat sinking in South Korea was the 2014 MV Sewol ferry disaster, which was caused by a combination of factors including structural failure, overloading, and crew negligence.

‘Misrule to exacerbate Pak’s economic, human crises’

ISLAMABAD

Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank have expressed grave concern over Pakistan’s deteriorating economic and human development conditions, citing poor governance, a fragile fiscal structure, and heavy dependence on external bailouts.

The warnings came as Pakistan continues to rely on multilateral financial assistance to stay afloat.

According to a report in The News International, UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Samuel Rizk said Pakistan’s economy reflects two tales—macroeconomic stability on one hand, but worsening social and human development indicators on the other. He revealed that Pakistan currently receives around \$14 billion annually from multilateral lenders, including the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and International Finance Corporation (IFC). However, to

achieve sustainable development goals, Pakistan needs 15–17 per cent of its GDP—an estimated \$50 billion annually. This cannot materialise without the co-blending of financing needs, Rizk said.

Dr. Rizk also noted that a European Union (EU) delegation would soon visit Pakistan to review the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) arrangement, under which Pakistan enjoys zero customs duties on over two-thirds of its exports to the EU. To retain this status, Pakistan must demonstrate compliance with 27 international conventions on human rights, labour standards, environment, and

good governance—conditions that India has repeatedly claimed Pakistan is violating.

Meanwhile, IMF Resident Representative Mahir Binc identified chronic weaknesses in Pakistan’s energy sector, institutional inefficiencies, and a narrow tax base as key impediments to growth. He said that the IMF aims to strengthen fiscal and export buffers through ongoing programmes under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Resilience Sustainability Fund (RSF) by 2027. However, Pakistan’s tax-to-GDP ratio is projected to reach only 13 per cent by then, falling short of the IMF’s target of 15 per cent.



Forum condemns Pak for silencing dissent

QUETTA

Human rights body Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) accused Pakistani authorities of not only weaponising the law to silence dissent but also reducing the judiciary to a mere rubber stamp.

According to the BYC, during the jail trial on Saturday, Pakistan’s Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) once again failed to submit the complete challans in the case against BYC leadership, alleging that the case is being deliberately prolonged

through delaying tactics. The rights body noted that since the very beginning, the CTD has repeatedly avoided submitting the full challans, with the Pakistani court continuing to support these delaying manoeuvres.

Despite failing to submit the complete challan, the court is in a hurry to frame the case based on the incomplete challan. However, the case should only proceed once all challans have been properly submitted. Unfortunately, the court appears to be supporting the CTD’s irregu-

lar approach. From the outset, the CTD has produced a series of fabricated FIRs against BYC leaders, despite the judge previously remarking during hearings for physical remand that all FIRs against the BYC leadership should be presented at once, read a statement issued by the BYC.

Following those remarks, the CTD had produced more than twenty-five fake FIRs. But in the ongoing hearings, the CTD is providing challans that include new FIRs against BYC leaders, which were not presented before.

‘Pak, Iran expelled 12K Afghan refugees’

KABUL

More than 12,000 Afghan refugees were forcibly repatriated from Iran and Pakistan, according to a statement released by Taliban Deputy spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat.

Sharing details from the High Commission for Addressing Migrants’ Issues report on X, Fitrat revealed that 2,194 families, comprising 12,666 individuals, had returned to Afghanistan through various border crossings.

The refugees entered Afghanistan via Pul-i-Abresham in Nimroz, Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Bahramcha in Helmand, Islam Qala in Herat, and the Torkham crossing in Nangarhar, as reported by Afghanistan-based Pajhwok Afghan News. Fitrat added that 1,609 families, comprising 10,533 people, have already been relocated to their home provinces, while 1,966 others



have received humanitarian assistance. Additionally, telecommunication companies distributed 1,665 SIM cards to returnees to facilitate communication.

This latest repatriation follows the forced deportation of 12,455 Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan just a day earlier, underscoring the ongoing exodus of displaced Afghans amid tightening border policies.

Earlier in October, Afghan

refugees in Pakistan expressed growing fear and distress amid a nationwide crackdown by Pakistani authorities. Local media reported that police had issued warnings in some mosques, declaring that anyone providing housing or assistance to Afghan refugees would be treated as a criminal.

Refugees alleged that many families, including children and the elderly, were being held in Pakistani detention centres for over two weeks under extremely harsh conditions. Winter has already started. Many of our shelters have been demolished, and people have nowhere to go, an Afghan refugee told media.

Several refugee groups have urged the Pakistan to suspend deportations and demolition drives, pleading for temporary reprieve through the harsh winter months.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

3	7		6		8	2	4	
2			7			8	6	
6	8			9				3
1	3			8	2	9		6
9	2		1	3				4
5		8	9	4		1	3	
	5	3	8	7		6		1
		2	3		1	4	5	
	1	6		2	5		9	

8	9	6	3	5	1	4	7	2
5	3	4	2	6	7	8	1	9
2	1	7	8	9	4	5	3	6
4	2	8	1	3	9	6	5	7
9	7	1	5	2	6	3	8	4
3	6	5	4	7	8	9	2	1
7	5	3	6	4	2	1	9	8
1	4	9	7	8	3	2	6	5
6	8	2	9	1	5	7	4	3

Solutions to Yesterday’s Puzzle

Fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

QUICK READ



Sensex, Nifty snap 3-day losing streak amid buying in IT

Mumbai
The domestic equity indices closed higher on Monday, snapping a three-day losing streak amid buying in IT, auto and selected banking stocks, along with optimism around the potential resolution of the US government shut-down. Sensex ended the session at 83,535.35, up 319 points or 0.38 per cent. The 30-share index started the session flat at 83,198.20 against last session's closing of 83,216.28. However, the index rallied around 500 points to hit an intra-day high of 83,754.49 amid heavy buying in tech and automobile heavyweights.

Private capex boosts India's medium term growth

New Delhi
India's medium term growth outlook remains constructive, with improving private capital expenditure and resilient consumption, which supported a strong recovery in equities in October, a report said on Monday. Nifty valuations are modestly above the 10-year average; we remain constructive on Indian equities, the report from HSBC Mutual Fund said. In debt markets, the HSBC fund house said the 2-4 year corporate bond segment offers attractive opportunities, adding that inflation outlook and growth uncertainty raise the odds of a 25 bps rate cut on December 5.

WeWork India's Q2 net profit tanks 96% to ₹6.4 cr

Mumbai
WeWork India on Monday reported a sharp 96 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to Rs 6.4 crore for the second quarter of FY26, compared to Rs 203.7 crore in the same period last fiscal (Q2 FY25). The steep drop in profitability came despite steady revenue growth, indicating higher expenses or one-off costs impacting margins during the quarter. Revenue from operations rose 22.4 per cent YoY to Rs 574.7 crore from Rs 469.5 crore in Q2 FY25, the company said in a regulatory filing. The premium flexible workspace operator's total expenses for the quarter under review stood at Rs 579 crore.

MUMBAI

With a combined economy of nearly Rs 10 lakh crore, nine emerging markets in India now command an impressive 70 million square feet of Grade A office space, alongside 80 million square feet of logistics infrastructure -- delivering quantifiable advantages driving corporate migration beyond metros, a report showed on Monday. From the northern region, Jaipur and Lucknow are witnessing exceptional corporate traction. Jaipur, historically a



Defence PSU are strong pillars of self-reliance: Rajnath

He inaugurated the state-of-the-art DPSU Bhavan and launched SWAYAM to boost green defence manufacturing.

NEW DELHI

In a major stride towards defence self-reliance and sustainable manufacturing, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday inaugurated the state-of-the-art DPSU Bhavan in the national capital. The event witnessed the signing of three major Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) among Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), reinforcing the government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in the defence sector. He also felicitated four defence PSUs for achieving 'Miniratna' status, acknowl-

edging their performance and contribution to India's growing defence ecosystem. As part of the event, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed MoUs with Yantra India Limited (YIL) to support modernisation efforts and establish a 10,000-ton Forging Press facility. This facility is expected to significantly reduce India's dependence on aluminium alloy imports for the aerospace and defence industries. HAL has pledged an interest-free advance of ₹435 crore to YIL, while BDL will provide a steady workload of up to 3,000 metric tonnes over the next decade.



Another key agreement was signed for the creation of a Metal Bank at MIDHANI, ensuring uninterrupted access to critical raw materials essential for strategic defence projects. The Minister also unveiled the HAL R&D Manual and the R&D Roadmap of DPSUs, aimed at boosting research, digitisation, intellectual property generation, and

collaboration with academic institutions. These initiatives mark a transformative shift from licensed production to indigenous innovation in defence manufacturing. Highlighting sustainability, Singh launched SWAYAM – Sustainable and Green Defence Manufacturing, a comprehensive compendium under the Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Action Plan (CEEAP) 2023. The initiative, supported by tools like the SWARNA Dashboard and DPSU Efficiency Index, underscores India's commitment to combining technological advancement with environmental responsibility.

Minister's points

- 'India achieved defence production worth Rs 1.51 lakh crore, with DPSUs contributing 71.6%.'
- 'Defence exports reached Rs 6,695 crore, underscoring global confidence in India's indigenous systems.'



EEPC India seeks inclusion of steel in US trade talks

NEW DELHI

The Engineering Export Promotion Council India (EEPC India) has urged the central government to include a range of steel and aluminium products, particularly those manufactured by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), in the ongoing bilateral trade discussions with the United States. The appeal comes as part of the Council's broader effort to safeguard the competitiveness of Indian engineering exports amid rising global trade barriers. In an official statement released on Monday, EEPC India highlighted the significant impact of the 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the US under Section 232, stating that the move has adversely affected India's engineering exports. The 50 per cent tariff increases the tariff differential with our competitors to an average of 30 per cent. A special support package that can absorb at least 15 per cent of this differential would help us secure our position, said Pan-kaj Chadha, Chairman of



The appeal comes as part of the Council's broader effort to safeguard the competitiveness of Indian engineering exports amid rising global trade barriers.

EEPC India.

The Council also called for the preservation of existing quota and out-of-quota tariff levels in ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the European Union (EU). EEPC expressed concerns over the EU's proposal to reduce quotas and raise out-of-quota tariffs to 50 per cent, terming it detrimental for Indian exporters.

To protect MSME interests, EEPC urged the government to seek exemptions for stainless-steel long products specifically categories 14, 15, and 22, from EU tariff-rate quotas. The Council also recommended increasing quota volumes for other product categories. It may be ensured that out-of-quota tariffs do not exceed 25 per cent and are gradually phased out over five to six years, Chadha added. EEPC maintained that such measures would help sustain India's export momentum while aligning with the government's Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.

China's lithium projects erode Tibetan autonomy

NEW DELHI

China's large-scale lithium production that started in Tibet in 2025, is a quiet erosion of Tibetan autonomy as benefits primarily leave the region and flow eastward to Mainland China, a new report has stressed. The benefits flow eastward, while the costs like ecological degradation, cultural dilution, and increased surveillance are borne by Tibetans, according to the report. The major lithium mines in Gerze County and Golmud, Qinghai Province have led to impressive infrastructural development including high-speed railways. The high-speed rail has attracted tourists and commercial activity to previously isolated regions, it noted. Moreover, the report maintained that this development is a scaffold for surveillance, a lattice of control. It has raised concerns regarding ecological damage, cultural erosion, and heightened security mea-



sures around the mining sites. Facial recognition systems greet travellers at hotel check-ins. Police checkpoints dot the roads. The same trains that bring tourists can just as easily transport troops. The lithium mines themselves are a study in extractive colonialism, according to the report. It characterised the increase in tourism in Tibet as ideologically weaponised because it reframes Tibet as a picturesque frontier of the Chinese nation, erasing its contested history and spiritual depth. It cautioned that economic projects are transforming social and cultural life, with boutique hotels and tourist amenities redefining Tibet as a picturesque frontier.

Hana Bank fined \$12.3 million for mis-selling pvt funds

SEOUL

Hana Bank, a major commercial bank in South Korea, has been fined nearly 18 billion won (\$12.3 million) for selling private funds to investors without properly explaining the associated risks, industry sources said on Monday. The Financial Supervisory Service (FSS) imposed a fine of 17.94 billion won on the bank for mis-selling nine types of private funds that invested in overseas loan bonds and similar assets, including those in Italy and Britain, to a total of 963 investors between 2017 and 2019. While selling the products, which had a combined sales volume of 377.9 billion won, the bank had allegedly distorted or omitted key information, violating its duty to explain investment risks, according to the sources. It allegedly concealed the risk of investment losses and misrepresented the product structure, leading investors to believe they could safely recover principal and interest,

FIEO to lead Indian delegation to Moscow for MITEK 2025

NEW DELHI

In a move aimed at further strengthening bilateral trade and industrial cooperation between India and Russia, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) announced on Monday that it will participate in the upcoming MITEK International Tools Expo 2025 scheduled in Moscow from November 11 to 14. The Indian delegation to MITEK 2025 will be led by FIEO President S.C. Ralhan, accompanied by Ajay Sahai, Director General and CEO, FIEO. Russia has been an important business partner for India, and the engineering and tools sector presents immense potential for collaboration. Our engineering exports to Russia are growing rapidly and are expected to reach \$1.75 billion this year, said Ralhan. He added that India's participation at MITEK would deepen commercial ties and showcase the country's manufacturing excellence in the Russian market, contributing to further growth in bilateral trade. Under the FIEO India Pavilion, more than 20 Indian companies will exhibit a wide range of products, including hand tools, engineering goods, industrial



hardware, machinery parts, fasteners, and related industrial solutions. According to FIEO, the pavilion will be located in Hall 5, symbolising India's growing role as a dependable supplier in global industrial value chains. On the sidelines of the event, the Embassy of India in Moscow, in partnership with the Department of Commerce, Government of India, FIEO, and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), will organise B2B meetings between Indian exporters and Russian industry representatives to explore joint ventures and trade linkages. Bilateral trade between India and Russia has surged to a record \$68.7 billion in FY2024-25, nearly 5.8 times higher than pre-pandemic levels. India's key exports to Russia include agricultural products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, machinery, engineering goods, and textiles, underscoring the growing depth of economic engagement between the two nations.

MP CM flags off Rewa-Delhi direct flight

BHOPAL

Rewa soared into a new chapter of connectivity on Monday as Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav virtually inaugurated the first direct flight from the Madhya Pradesh city to New Delhi, bringing long-awaited relief to Vindhya residents. From Bhopal, the Chief Minister flagged off the 72-seater aircraft at 10.30 a.m. through video conferencing, marking the operational launch of daily air services between Rewa and the national capital. We will soon start Helicopter service from Rewa. The new air services will not only be beneficial to the industrial sector, mining sector of Singrauli, but also tourists of Khajuraho, Bandhavgarh, Panna national parks, he said. Hundreds of locals, officials,



and business leaders gathered at the expanded Rewa airstrip to witness the historic take-off. The flight, operating under the UDAN regional connectivity scheme, cuts travel time from over 15 hours by road or rail to less than two hours by air. Passengers on the inaugural journey included students, government officials, and traders, all eager to experi-

ence the convenience of direct access to Delhi. District administration officials said the air link will boost multiple sectors. Medical patients can now reach Delhi's super-specialty hospitals the same day. Tourists planning visits to Khajuraho, Bandhavgarh, or Panna will find Rewa a convenient gateway. Students aspiring for coaching or higher education in the capital gain a reliable travel option, the chief minister said. This service ends years of hardship for Rewa residents who previously had to travel via Prayagraj, Satna, or Jabalpur to reach the national capital via air transport services. Local cement and soybean exporters also welcomed the route, noting faster access to northern markets and policy corridors.

Bajaj Finance net jumps 22%, NII too rises 22%

MUMBAI

The largest non-banking financier Bajaj Finance has reported a 22% jump in consolidated net income at Rs 4,875 crore for the September quarter. The net interest income also increased 22% to Rs 10,785 crore, the company said in exchange filings Monday, adding its total income rose 20% to Rs 13,170 crore. Number of new loans booked rose to 1.22 crore as against 97 lakh in Q2FY25, a growth of 26%, while customer franchise stood at 11.06

crore compared to 92.09 lakh, a growth of 20%. Customer franchise grew by 41.3 lakh in the September quarter. Loan losses and provisions increased by 19% to Rs 2,269 crore from Rs 1,909 crore and annualised loan losses and provisions to average assets under finance was 2.05%. As a result, gross NPAs and net NPAs stood at 1.24% and 0.60% respectively, as against 1.06% and 0.46%. Meanwhile, its subsidiary Bajaj Housing Finance, which announced its earnings earlier, had reported a net income growth of 18%.



CORPORATE BOOM

9 emerging markets in India now drive corp migration

MUMBAI

With a combined economy of nearly Rs 10 lakh crore, nine emerging markets in India now command an impressive 70 million square feet of Grade A office space, alongside 80 million square feet of logistics infrastructure -- delivering quantifiable advantages driving corporate migration beyond metros, a report showed on Monday. From the northern region, Jaipur and Lucknow are witnessing exceptional corporate traction. Jaipur, historically a



hub for tourism, jewellery and garment industries, has evolved into a technology destination with major IT companies, according to a JLL report. The city's improved con-

nectivity through its international airport and the new Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, combined with its robust talent pool from coaching hubs and fresh graduates, positions it for strong growth across

residential, retail, and warehousing sectors. Lucknow, as Uttar Pradesh's capital, leverages excellent infrastructure and progressive leadership to attract industrial investments, including defence manufacturing. According to the report, the city anticipates robust commercial inventory over the next 3-4 years. The formation of a State Capital Region (SCR) encompassing Lucknow and five adjoining districts, modelled on Delhi's NCR, will drive unprecedent-

ed growth. Coimbatore, dubbed the 'Manchester of South India,' stands as the state's second-largest city by GDP, manufacturing, and IT output after Chennai. This fast-growing tier 2 destination offers immense talent availability across sectors while maintaining the safest environment for women employment. The city's rapid infrastructure development includes metro rail, outer ring road, and smart city initiatives, supported by the state's latest approved master plan.





Kichcha Sudeep Praises Simple Suni's Film Gathavaibhava

Kannada superstar Kichcha Sudeep has extended his support to director Simple Suni's upcoming movie Gathavaibhava, which is already creating a buzz for its fresh concept. The trailer of the film was launched yesterday at a private mall in Bengaluru, where Sudeep was the special guest. Speaking at the event, Sudeep praised the director, saying, Simple Suni is one of the best filmmakers in our industry. I haven't worked with him yet, but I hope to do so someday. Every frame in his movies is made with care. I'm eagerly waiting for Gathavaibhava. Both Dushyant and Ashika Ranganath look great on screen. He jokingly added that Dushyant, the film's lead actor, gave a confident speech and that he should actually learn from him—especially after discovering that Dushyant is the son of a politician. Director Simple Suni expressed his gratitude to Sudeep for launching the trailer and said, I'm truly happy that Sudeep Sir is supporting our project. Gathavaibhava is a different kind of film that will connect with audiences through word-of-



vaibhava is a different kind of film that will connect with audiences through word-of-

mouth. Even though the movie doesn't feature big stars, the story itself will stand out. The trailer has received an encouraging response from viewers, and the team is confident that Gathavaibhava will offer something fresh and engaging to Kannada cinema audiences when it releases soon.



Chandraprabha shares his journey from struggles to fame

Comedian and former Bigg Boss contestant Chandraprabha has shared his emotional and inspiring story about life before fame. In an interview with Public TV, he revealed that just before entering the reality show, he was working as a construction laborer. A few days before I got the call from Bigg Boss, I was doing daily-wage work at a construction site. When the opportunity came, I left the job and joined the show, he said. Coming from a small village in Pandavapura taluk of Mandya district, Chandraprabha's journey has been far from easy. He studied only up to Class 10 before taking up construction work to support his family. His love for acting later drew him to theatre, where he trained at Rangayana and soon gained attention through the popular comedy show Majabharatha. Even after becoming well-known on television, Chandraprabha continues to stay grounded. He said that whenever he doesn't get acting offers, he returns to construction work. Work is work. I prefer earning through my own effort rather than sitting idle, he said.

Speaking about his humble beginnings, he added, My father was also a construction worker. As the eldest son, I followed the same path. Now I own a car and a house, but I never forget where I came from. Reflecting on the pain behind comedy, Chandraprabha said, Every comedian hides sorrow behind his laughter. The one who makes others laugh often carries the deepest pain.



Keerthy Suresh's 'Revolver Rita' to release on November 28

Actress Keerthy Suresh's much-awaited action-comedy film Revolver Rita has locked a new worldwide release date. The makers officially announced that the film will hit theatres on November 28, in both Tamil and Telugu languages. Directed by J K Chandru, the film was earlier planned for release on August 27 to coincide with Vinayaka Chaturthi, but it was postponed. The production team confirmed the fresh date with a playful post that read, This Revolver is all set to roll on November 28th Babyy!

The teaser of Revolver Rita has already drawn attention for its mix of comedy and action. In the teaser, Keerthy Suresh is seen buying vegetables when a group of thugs steals her handbag. They are shocked to find a revolver, a blood-stained knife, and a bomb inside. Soon, Keerthy storms into their den to retrieve her bag, leaving the goons terrified and unsure whether she is a RAW agent, gangster, or cop. The tension quickly turns humorous when she receives a phone call from her mother, reminding her to bring tomatoes for cooking. The film also stars Radikaa Sarathkumar, Sunil, Ajay Ghosh, Redin Kingsley, Super Subbarayan, and John Vijay in key roles.

ANANYA PANDAY dazzles in ₹76,000 floral designer dress



Bollywood actress Ananya Panday recently turned heads with her stylish appearance on Kajol and Twinkle Khanna's celebrity chat show Two Much. Known for her effortless charm and youthful energy, the actress showcased a perfect blend of modern elegance and bold sophistication in a stunning Marianna Sanchina designer outfit.

Styled by Ami Patel, Ananya wore a maroon-toned flower bloom midi dress from the luxury brand. The elegant ensemble featured strategic cut-outs adorned with two handcrafted 3D floral embellishments and ruched detailing that accentuated her figure. The semi-sheer fabric added a soft, romantic appeal to the overall look.

The designer dress comes with a hefty price tag of ₹750 (approximately ₹76,800), reflecting its intricate craftsmanship and couture finish. Ananya completed her look with delicate earrings by Renu Oberoi and strappy stilettos from Aquazzura, keeping accessories minimal yet chic.

Her makeup was fresh and radiant — featuring shimmering eyelids, softly lined eyes, blushed cheeks, and berry-toned lips, giving her a graceful yet glamorous appearance.

Ananya, often praised for her minimal yet impactful fashion sense, continues to impress with her balance of simplicity and statement style.

On the work front, she was last seen in Kesari Chapter 2 as Dilreet Gill and will soon star opposite Kartik Aaryan in the romantic comedy Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri. She is also set to reprise her role as Bella Bae Chowdhary in Call Me Bae Season 2, further cementing her place among Bollywood's most promising young stars.

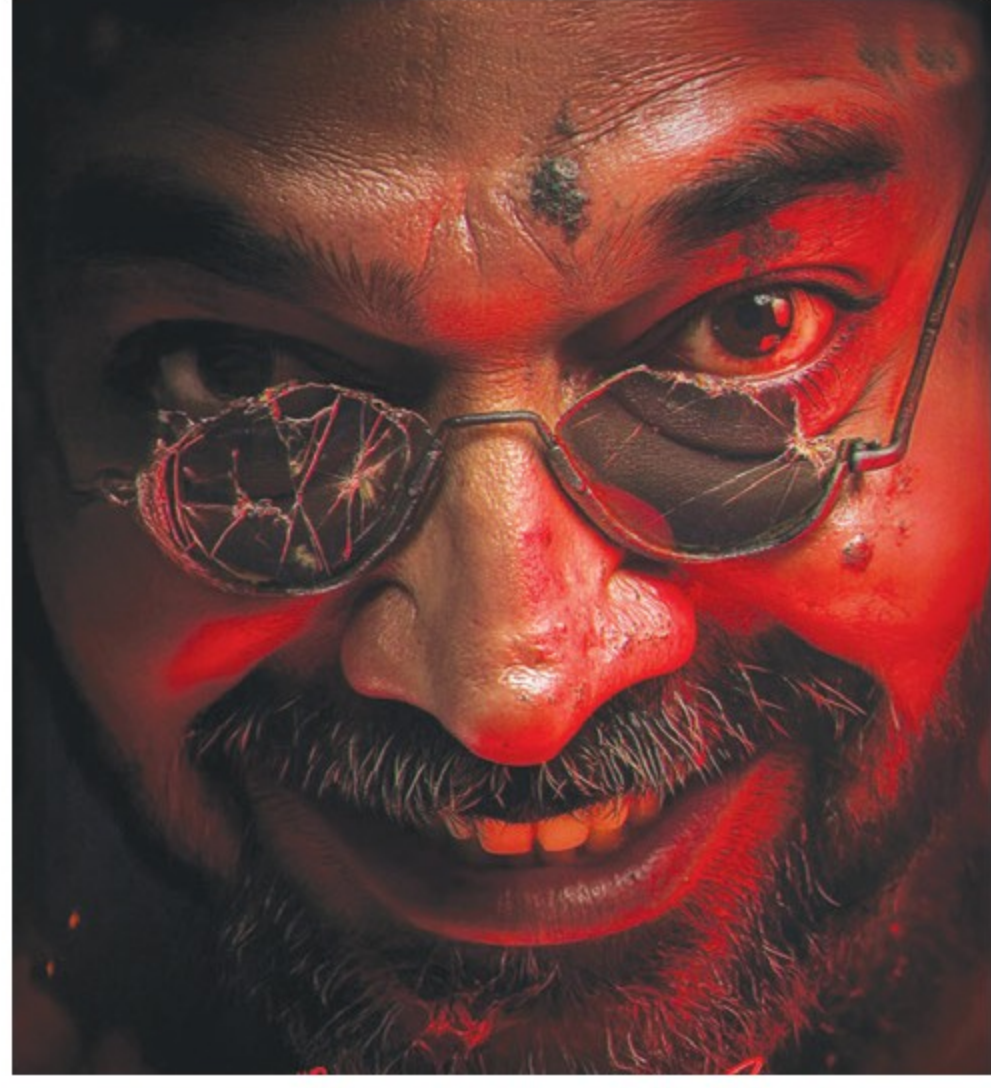
Anurag Kashyap to star in Tamil horror thriller 'UNKILL 123'

Filmmaker-actor Anurag Kashyap is set to headline the upcoming Tamil horror thriller Unkill 123, directed by Sam Anton. The film's first look poster, unveiled on social media, has created a buzz with its eerie theme and the tagline Like. Share. Die.

The poster features Anurag Kashyap in an intense look, sporting broken glasses and a grim expression, hinting at a chilling narrative. The promotional material describes the film as a terrifying digital nightmare, suggesting a storyline that delves into the dark and dangerous side of social media.

The film's slogan — Every click has a consequence — reinforces the idea that Unkill 123 will explore how technology and online behavior can spiral into horror. Fans are already speculating that the movie might blend psychological thrills with supernatural elements rooted in the digital world.

Anurag Kashyap is expected to play a strong negative role, building on his previous success in Tamil cinema. Producer Ravindra Benerjee Muppaneni, known for acclaimed films like Colour Photo and Bedurulanka 2012, is returning with his next production, Dandora. Directed by Muralikanth under the banner of Loukya Entertainments, the film is nearing completion and is all set to release in theatres on December 25, coinciding with Christmas Day.



The makers recently unveiled an announcement poster featuring a dug-out pit in an open field with the caption Ending this year dramatically, sparking curiosity among moviegoers. Dandora is described as a socially relevant drama focusing on issues of caste discrimination and the struggles of individuals who challenge rigid social barriers or inter-caste taboos. Set in the rural landscapes of Telangana, the film promises to combine satire, emotion, and subtle humor while reflecting on deep-rooted traditions. The film features Shivaji in the lead role, along with Navdeep, Nandu, Bindu Madhavi, Ravi Krishna, Manik, Anusha, and Radhya in prominent roles. The technical team includes Mark K. Robin as music composer, Venkat R. Sakamuri as cinematographer, and Srujana Adusumilli as editor. Kranti Priyam handles art direction, while Rekha Boggarrapu designs the costumes. The film's executive producer is Edward Perazzi, with Aneesh Marishetti serving as co-producer.

Sundeep Kishan's first look from 'Sigma' revealed

Thalapathy Vijay's son Jason Sanjay is officially stepping into the film industry as a director with his debut feature titled Sigma. The film is being produced by Lyca Productions, which recently announced the title along with a striking first-look poster.

The poster shows actor Sundeep Kishan, who plays the lead role, sitting confidently on a pile of gold bars and bundles of money, hinting at a story filled with power, ambition, and intrigue.



The film's music is composed by Thaman S, while Praveen KL handles editing. With a strong technical crew and an intriguing theme, Sigma has already generated buzz among both Tamil and Telugu audiences. Fans are eagerly awaiting more details about the project, as Jason Sanjay, the son of one of Tamil cinema's biggest stars, takes his first step behind the camera. His debut marks the beginning of a new chapter for the Vijay family in the film industry. Meanwhile, Thalapathy Vijay himself continues to dominate headlines with his upcoming film Jan Nayagan. The makers recently released a lively single titled Thalapathy Kacheri, composed and sung by Anirudh Ravichander, with additional vocals by Vijay and Arivu.

The upbeat number celebrates Vijay's deep bond with his fans, and its release turned into a festive event. Fans of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief were seen dancing in the streets of Madurai, waving posters and celebrating the song's launch like a grand festival.



'Dandora' to hit theatres this Christmas nationwide



Transitional Period: Coach on Gukesh’s Present Form

Gukesh’s inconsistent year reflects the challenges of adapting to life as world champion

NEW DELHI

Reigning world chess champion D Gukesh’s surprising third-round exit from the 2025 FIDE World Cup has once again intensified scrutiny over his recent performances. The 19-year-old Indian grandmaster lost to Germany’s Frederik Svane, marking another setback in what his coach, Grzegorz Gajewski, described as a “transitional period” following his world title triumph.

Since defeating Ding Liren last December to become the youngest world champion in history, Gukesh’s year has been uneven. He began 2025 with promise, narrowly missing the title at Wijk aan Zee after losing a tie-break to R Praggnanandhaa. He later regained form at the European Club Cup, winning an individual gold on Board 1 for Romanian club SuperChess and helping them secure the overall title.

However, his World Cup

ouster has reignited questions about his consistency and mindset. Gajewski offered insight into Gukesh’s current challenges. “It’s very typical for anyone who has worked their whole life to achieve something and then finally does,” he said. “You need new goals and ways to motivate yourself. It’s kind of a transitional period for Gukesh.”

The Polish grandmaster and long-time coach added that fans must remember Gukesh’s

youth and the intensity of modern competition. “It’s not like by winning the title, he got a monopoly on victories,” he said. “Everyone is working hard to beat him. There were some ups and downs, but mentally and physically we’re getting back on track.”

With the world championship defense scheduled for next year, Gukesh now faces the challenge of rediscovering his rhythm — and proving why he remains the man to beat in global chess.

Rybakina’s Record £4m Payday Outshines Alcaraz, Sinner at WTA Finals

RIYADH

Elena Rybakina ended the 2025 WTA season in stunning fashion, defeating world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 7-6(0) in Riyadh to lift her maiden WTA Finals title and secure a record-breaking £4 million payout — the largest ever in women’s sports history. The Kazakh star’s unbeaten run across the tournament earned her a payday that even ATP sensations Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner cannot match at this year’s ATP Finals in Turin.

Rybakina, ranked world No. 6, showcased her trademark precision and composure on the indoor hardcourt, dispatching top-ranked opponents Amanda Anisimova, Iga Swiatek, and Ekaterina Alexandrova in the group stage. Each victory added £271,000 (\$355,000) to her total, while her semifinal triumph over Jessica Pegula brought another £986,000 (\$1.29 million). The win against Sabalenka in the final sealed the biggest single-tournament prize ever awarded — a total of £4 million (\$5.2 million).

The figure eclipses the £3.8 million Sabalenka and Alcaraz received for their respective US Open triumphs earlier this year, underscoring the growing financial parity and prestige of women’s tennis. Even the ATP Finals’ top prize of £3.87 million for an undefeated champion falls short of Rybakina’s total earnings.

A beaming Rybakina, who also won Wimbledon in 2022, downplayed the monetary milestone. “It’s definitely a huge amount, but I didn’t think about that so much,” she said. “It’s great, and we’ll celebrate well with the team, family, and everyone.”

Elena Rybakina claimed the WTA Finals crown and a record-breaking prize purse



Darkness Looms Larger for ISL as Champions Suspend Operations

NEW DELHI

The future of the Indian Super League (ISL) has plunged into deeper uncertainty after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) confirmed that its latest commercial tender for the league failed to attract a single bid. The development has forced reigning champions Mohun Bagan SuperGiants to suspend all football operations indefinitely, while the Supreme Court now remains the league’s final hope for survival.

The tender process, supervised by a Bid Evaluation Committee chaired by former Justice (Retd.) L. Nageswara Rao, was intended to secure a long-term commercial partner following the expiry of the existing Master Rights Agreement with Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) in December 2025. Despite reported interest from FSDL, a foreign consortium, and a domestic bidder, no financial proposals were submitted before the November 7 deadline.

AIFF had floated the 15-year Request for Proposal (RFP) on October 16 under Supreme Court orders to ensure a transparent process. The failed bidding round has been attributed by industry experts to a mismatch between AIFF’s financial expectations and the current market outlook. Justice Rao is now expected to file a detailed report to the Supreme Court, outlining potential next steps.

Meanwhile, the fallout is growing across Indian football. Mohun Bagan’s suspension of activities has sent shockwaves through the league, with several clubs warning that the delay in finalizing the ISL’s future is jeopardizing sponsorships and squad planning for the 2025–26 season.

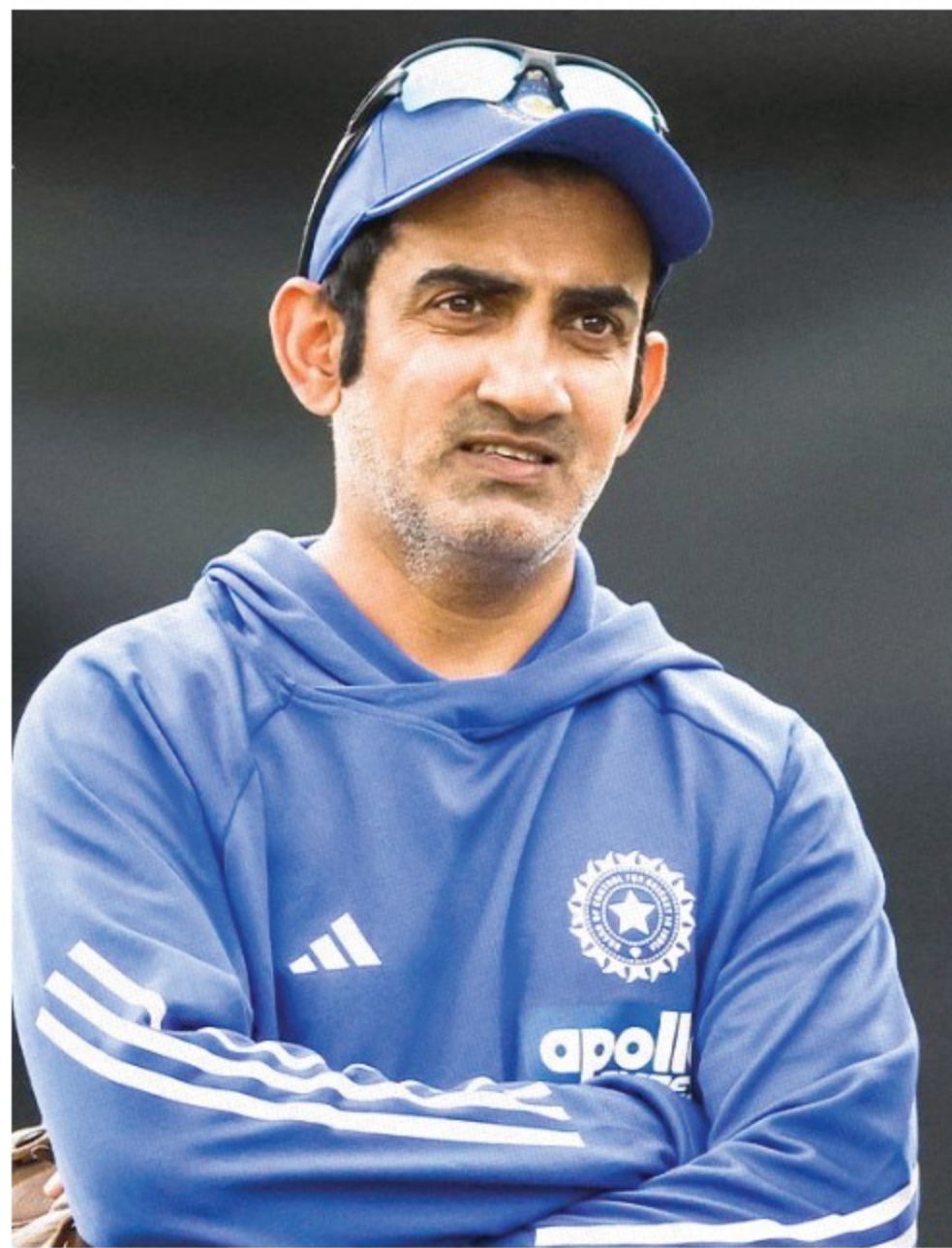
Gambhir Confident India Can Peak in Time for T20 WC

NEW DELHI

India head coach Gautam Gambhir said the team still has work to do before the T20 World Cup but remains confident of hitting peak form in time for the tournament. The global event will be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka in February-March 2026, with India entering as defending champions.

Gambhir emphasised the importance of honesty and fitness within the squad. “It has been a very transparent dressing room, a very honest one, and that’s how we want it to be,” he said. Hopefully, guys know the importance of being fit. We still have three months to be where we want to be.”

Gambhir, known for his tough, no-nonsense approach,



India head coach stresses fitness and readiness with three months to prepare

reiterated his belief in testing players under pressure to gauge their mental and phys-

ical resilience. “Throw guys in the deep sea — as simple as it can get,” he said.

He cited Shubman Gill’s successful stint as an example of that philosophy. Gill, who captained India in the Test series against England, led from the front with strong batting performances and helped India draw the series 2-2 after a series of closely contested matches.

Under Gambhir’s leadership, India’s T20 side is expected to undergo strategic experimentation and rigorous fitness training as part of its preparation phase. With three months remaining, the focus will be on refining combinations, sharpening match readiness, and ensuring the team peaks at the right moment to defend their crown.

The Santos star’s outburst against the referee and coach sparked major controversy

NEYMAR’S FURIOUS MELTDOWN: CALLS REFEREE ‘ARROGANT’

RIO DE JANEIRO

Neymar’s night at the Maracanã ended in chaos as the Santos forward launched a furious tirade against referee Sávio Pereira Sampaio, clashed with his own coach, and stormed off the pitch during a 3-2 defeat to Flamengo in the Brasileirão. The incident deepened the turmoil surrounding relegation-threatened Santos, now 17th in the standings.

The trouble began in the first half when Neymar, already frustrated by several refereeing calls, received a yellow card in the 36th minute after arguing over a corner that led to Flamengo’s opening goal. “The referee is very bad. Besides being bad, he’s arrogant,” Neymar said. “They say only the captain can speak, but when we do, he turns his back and walks away.”



He further claimed Sampaio threatened him with another booking if he approached again. “He told me, ‘If you come near me, I’ll give you a yellow.’ I was just trying to talk,” Neymar said, blaming poor officiating for the sequence that led to the goal.

The evening worsened when coach Juan Pablo Vojvoda substituted Neymar in the 85th minute. Furious, the Brazilian star confronted his coach on the touchline before

heading directly to the dressing room instead of the bench.

Flamengo held on for a 3-2 win, while Neymar’s visible anger — first at the referee, then at his coach — quickly became the night’s defining image. The defeat leaves Santos in a precarious position, and Neymar’s meltdown has only intensified questions about leadership and discipline within the squad as the club battles to avoid relegation from Brazil’s top flight.

MLB Pitchers Emmanuel Clase, Luis Ortiz Charged in Match-Fixing Bribery Scandal

NEW YORK

Cleveland Guardians pitchers Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz have been charged in a shocking bribery scandal that has rocked Major League Baseball. The duo allegedly accepted thousands of dollars from bettors to manipulate pitches, helping gamblers from the Dominican Republic win an estimated \$460,000 through in-game prop bets.

According to an indictment unsealed in Brooklyn federal court, the two pitchers conspired to throw specific pitches — including balls in the dirt — at prearranged moments. Ortiz, 26, was arrested by the FBI at Boston Logan

International Airport and is expected to appear in court Monday, while Clase, 27, remains at large. Both face charges of wire fraud conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy, and bribery, each carrying potential prison terms of up to 20 years.

Prosecutors said the scheme began in 2023, when Clase started providing inside information on his pitching patterns, before demanding payment earlier this year. Examples cited include deliberately slower or erratic pitches during games against teams such as the Red Sox, Dodgers, and Phillies. Ortiz allegedly joined the operation in June, manipulating

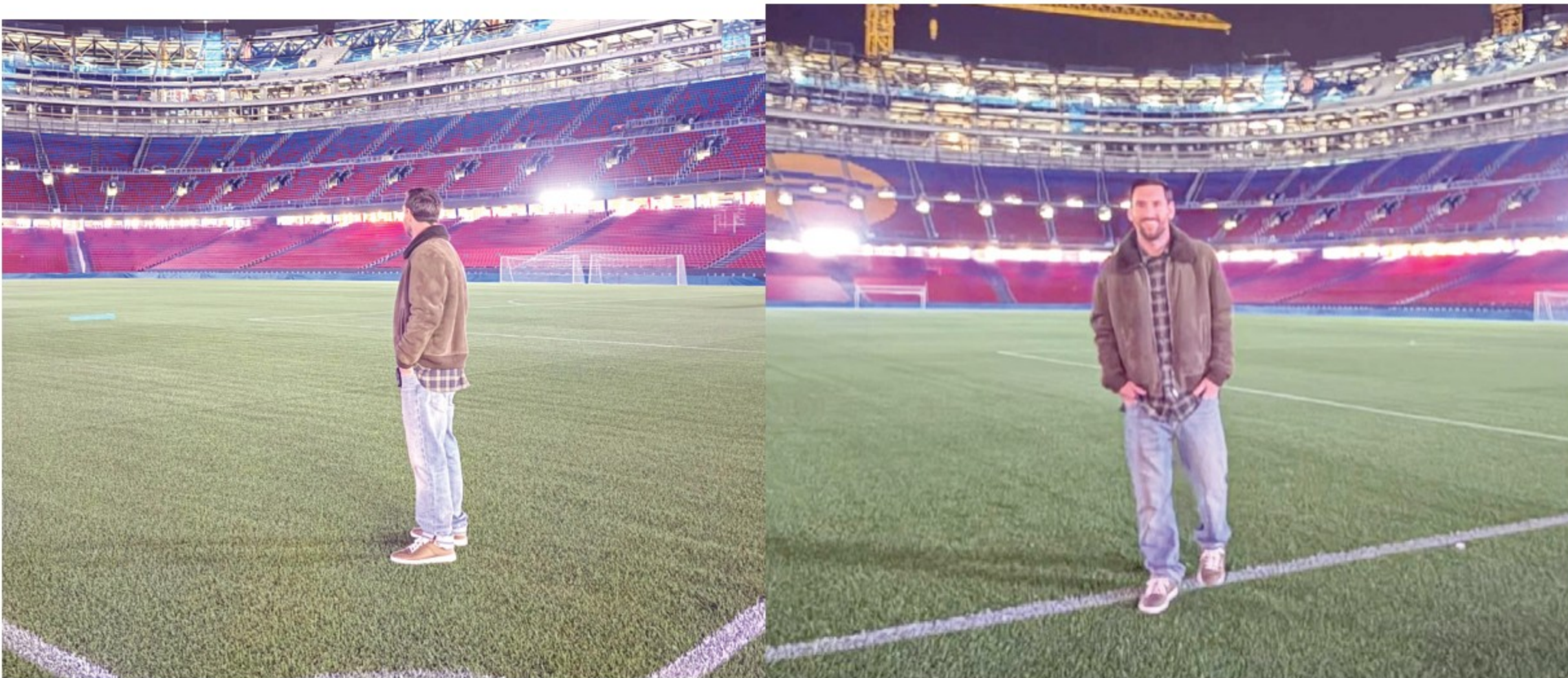
first pitches in games against Seattle and St. Louis.

U.S. Attorney Joseph Nocella Jr. condemned the actions, saying the players “betrayed America’s pastime.” MLB confirmed it had alerted federal authorities after detecting “unusual betting activity” and is continuing its own investigation. Ortiz’s attorney maintained his client’s innocence, claiming all payments were for lawful purposes. The Cleveland Guardians said they are fully cooperating with law enforcement.

The indictments mark another major blow to professional sports amid a growing wave of gambling scandals following the legalization of online betting in the United States.

BARCELONA

Messi Makes Secret Camp Nou Visit, Shares Emotional Message to Fans



Lionel Messi made a quiet, emotional return to Camp Nou on Sunday night, his first visit since leaving FC Barcelona in 2021. Following Inter Miami’s MLS Playoff win over Nashville, the eight-time Ballon d’Or winner took a private detour to the stadium where his legendary career began. In an Instagram post, Messi

expressed his longing for the club and its supporters. “Last night I returned to a place I miss with my soul... I hope one day I can come back,” he wrote. Barcelona recently reopened Camp Nou for training amid renovations, and fans now dream of Messi’s symbolic return to the club where he became a global icon.

MUMBAI

“These Shameless People Are Using You”: Gavaskar Warns Indian Women’s Team



Cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar has warned the Indian women’s cricket team not to be disappointed if some of the rewards promised after their ODI World Cup win fail to materialise. Gavaskar said brands and politicians often use such victories for publicity. “Don’t fret if these shameless people are using your

win to promote themselves,” he advised Harmanpreet Kaur and her teammates. Drawing from his experience with the 1983 men’s World Cup squad, Gavaskar noted that many promises made then were never fulfilled, urging the players to value the nation’s love and pride above material rewards.

KUMAMOTO (JAPAN)

Prannoy, Lakshya Eye Comeback as Kumamoto Masters Begins Tuesday



Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen will look to regain rhythm at the USD 475,000 Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 starting Tuesday. Seventh seed Lakshya opens against Japan’s world No.25 Koki Watanabe. The 24-year-old from Almorla showed signs of revival recently with a runner-up finish at the Hong Kong

Open and quarterfinal runs at Denmark and Hylo. Prannoy returns from a rib injury that forced him to retire at the Korea Open in September. The 33-year-old faces Malaysia’s Jun Hao Leong. In men’s singles, Ayush Shetty meets top seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn, Tharun Manjappa plays Jeon Hyeok Jin, while Kiran George faces a qualifier.



Jadeja's Instagram Vanishes amid Reports of Swap Deal

Jadeja's social media disappearance fuels speculation of a blockbuster CSK-RR trade

NEW DELHI

Ravindra Jadeja's official Instagram account has mysteriously vanished just as speculation intensifies over his potential departure from Chennai Super Kings (CSK). Reports suggest that Jadeja could be part of a high-profile swap deal that would see Rajasthan Royals (RR) captain Sanju Samson move to Chennai ahead of IPL 2026.

Jadeja, one of CSK's most influential players in recent years, has been instrumental in their title wins in 2018, 2021 and 2023, and briefly captained the team in 2022.

His absence from Insta-

gram — where he often shares glimpses of his cricketing and personal life — has alarmed fans, many of whom believe it signals an impending transfer.

According to sources, CSK are preparing for a future beyond MS Dhoni and see Samson as a key part of their long-term plans. Reports indicate that England all-rounder Sam Curran might also be involved in the proposed deal, potentially joining Rajasthan.

A senior CSK official reportedly confirmed that the franchise is engaged in active talks with RR, though the Royals are yet to make a final decision. The possible exit of Jadeja, a long-

time crowd favourite in Chennai, has left fans divided — some shocked, others supportive of the team's rebuilding vision.

Former cricketer Mohammed Kaif believes Dhoni would back the move if it strengthens the squad. "If Jadeja has to be sacrificed for the team's good, Dhoni will do it. His focus is always on making CSK champions," Kaif said.

Jadeja previously played for Rajasthan Royals during the inaugural IPL season in 2008, when the team lifted the maiden trophy.

Norris Wins Brazilian GP to Extend Lead in F1 Title Race

SAO PAULO

Lando Norris strengthened his grip on the Formula 1 championship after a commanding victory at the Brazilian Grand Prix, with McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri suffering another setback following a 10-second penalty. Norris, who started from pole and also won Saturday's sprint race, delivered a flawless drive to secure his first career win at Interlagos.

The 25-year-old Briton finished ahead of Mercedes' rising star Kimi Antonelli in second and Red Bull's Max Verstappen in third. The victory marks Norris's seventh of the season and extends his championship tally to 390 points — 24 clear of Piastri, who finished fifth after his early collision. Verstappen remains third in the standings with 341 points but has downplayed his title chances.

Despite his growing lead, Norris remained cautious. "It's just another weekend trying to win and collect points," he said, dedicating the victory to the late Brazilian racing legend Gil de Ferran. "This one was for Gil. I was thinking of him the whole race — a perfect weekend."

Piastri's title hopes took another blow after contact with Antonelli on lap eight forced Ferrari's Charles Leclerc to retire. The Australian, who is now winless in six races, defended his move but accepted the penalty. "I had a clear opportunity on the inside; I can't just disappear," he said.

Bavuma completes South Africa's full-strength squad for Test series against India

Temba Bavuma Joins S Africa Squad in Kolkata

KOLKATA

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma joined the national team in Kolkata on Monday morning, completing the visitors' full-strength squad ahead of the opening Test against India at Eden Gardens, starting Friday.

Bavuma, who recently led the South Africa 'A' side in their unofficial Test series against India A in Bengaluru, arrived along with other team officials to join the senior squad. "Bavuma and a few others reached from Bengaluru this morning. Most of the squad, including head coach Shukri Conrad, had checked in on Sunday," a



team official confirmed.

The first batch of South African players, featuring pace spearheads Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen, arrived a day earlier after completing the white-ball series in Pakistan. Both teams are scheduled to hold their first training session at Eden Gardens on Tuesday.

Bavuma's return marks a boost for the Proteas ahead of their World Test Championship (WTC) assignment. The skipper had missed the earlier leg of the campaign due to a calf strain but impressed in his comeback for the 'A' team, scoring a crucial 59 in Bengaluru to level the series 1-1. Middle-order batter Zubayr Hamza, who also performed well

against India A, has joined the main squad as well.

On the Indian side, captain Shubman Gill, head coach Gautam Gambhir, Jasprit Bumrah, and all-rounders Washington Sundar and Axar Patel arrived in Kolkata late on Sunday after completing the Australia tour. The remaining players, including Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul, are expected later in the day.

The two-match series will be India's final red-ball assignment of 2025, while South Africa's next Test action is slated for September 2026 against Australia at home.

Roy Keane Declares "Crisis Time" for Liverpool After 3-0 Defeat to Man City

NEW DELHI

Manchester United legend Roy Keane believes Liverpool are in a full-blown crisis after their 3-0 defeat to Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday, a result that marked their fifth league loss of the season — already more than last year. Keane slammed the performance as "weak" and "unacceptable" for a club of Liverpool's stature. "It's fine to

lose to City, but when you've lost seven of your last ten games and five already in the league, that's a crisis," he said.

Arne Slot's side has been in a worrying slump, managing only three wins in ten matches across all competitions. They now sit eighth in the Premier League, eight points behind leaders Arsenal, effectively slipping out of the early title race.

Keane also dismissed Slot's

remarks that he was encouraged by the second half, saying the game was already beyond reach at 2-0. He criticised Liverpool's decision-making, intensity, and "soft" substitutions.

Liverpool's slide has increased pressure on Slot in his debut season, with their energy, discipline, and defensive structure under scrutiny ahead of the crucial November 22 clash against Nottingham Forest.

LYON

Joao Neves' Last-Gasp Header Sends Paris Saint-Germain Top of Ligue 1



Joao Neves scored a dramatic 95th-minute winner as Paris Saint-Germain edged Lyon 3-2 to reclaim top spot in Ligue 1. The Portuguese midfielder's header sealed victory after Lyon had twice equalised in an intense contest at the Groupama Stadium. PSG had briefly lost the lead to Marseille, who beat Brest 3-0 on Saturday, but

now move two points clear with 27. Coach Luis Enrique praised his side's "resilience," calling the result crucial after their midweek Champions League loss to Bayern Munich. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Warren Zaire-Emery were also on target for PSG, while Lyon's Afonso Moreira and Ainsley Maitland-Niles scored for the hosts.

BENGALURU

Srihari Nataraj Shines with 3 Golds at Nettakallappa Swimming Competition



Olympian Srihari Nataraj dominated the pool with three gold medals at the fourth Nettakallappa Swimming Competition, held at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre. Representing Dolphin Aquatics, Srihari clinched the men's SKINS 50m freestyle title in 23.26 seconds, edging Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre's Akash Mani and Chinthan S Shetty.

In the women's SKINS event, fellow Dolphin Aquatics swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu struck gold in 27.12 seconds, ahead of Nina Venkatesh and Vihitha Nayana. Dhinidhi — the youngest Indian Olympian at the 2024 Paris Games — shared the Most Valuable Swimmer award with Lakshyan Academy's Trisha S Sindhu, who also won four gold medals.

NEW YORK

Legendary Hall of Famer Lenny Wilkens Passes Away at 88



Lenny Wilkens, a Hall of Famer celebrated as both player and coach, died at 88, his family announced. No cause of death was given. A nine-time NBA All-Star, Wilkens starred from 1960 to 1975 and was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame twice — as a player in 1989 and as a coach in 1998. He guided the Seattle Super-

Sonics to their lone NBA title in 1979 and retired with 1,332 coaching wins, then an NBA record. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called him "one of the game's most respected ambassadors," praising his integrity and impact on generations of players and coaches. Wilkens remains third all-time in coaching victories.



BCCI in talks with Bangladesh's Nathan Kiely to strengthen women's fitness setup

India Women's Team Likely to Appoint Foreign Coach

NEW DELHI

The World Cup-winning Indian women's cricket team is set to make history with its first-ever foreign strength and conditioning (S&C) coach. According to reports, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is in advanced talks with Bangladesh men's S&C coach Nathan Kiely to join the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru.

Kiely, who has also served as an assistant coach for New South Wales in Australian domestic cricket, is being considered to enhance the fitness structure across India's women's setup. If finalised, he would be-

come the first overseas fitness coach to work with the women's national team.

The move follows India's World Cup triumph, which has significantly raised expectations around player preparation and workload management. Current women's S&C coach Al Harrsha, who played a key role in the team's recent success, could be assigned new responsibilities within the BCCI's expanding fitness framework.

Sources within the board revealed that the COE recently recruited two new in-house S&C coaches — Pratyush Agrawal and Amit Vengurlekar. Agrawal previously worked with Delhi Capitals, while Vengurlekar was with Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL. These appointments are

part of BCCI's broader plan to modernize and professionalize its fitness infrastructure.

Traditionally, S&C coaches at the COE are rotated among various national and age-group teams to maintain consistency in training methods. With Kiely's potential inclusion, the women's program is expected to benefit from international expertise and advanced conditioning techniques.

Meanwhile, India's men's team continues under the guidance of South African Adrian Le Roux, who is currently in his second stint as S&C coach. The appointment of Kiely would mark another step in India's growing emphasis on global best practices in cricket fitness management.

Pit Lane to Podium: Verstappen Shines at Brazilian GP

SAO PAULO

Max Verstappen produced one of the standout drives of the 2025 season with a stunning comeback to finish third at the Brazilian Grand Prix in São Paulo. Starting from the pit lane after Red Bull made major overnight changes and fitted a new engine following a poor qualifying, the four-time world champion carved through the

field with trademark aggression and control.

His race wasn't straightforward — after climbing into the mid-field, he suffered a puncture that forced an extra pit stop and dropped him back. But a late switch to fresh soft tyres gave him decisive pace in the closing laps, allowing him to pass George Russell and chase down Kimi Antonelli before settling for third. Race winner Lando Norris extended his championship advantage and now leads Verstappen by 49 points with three races to go.

Carlos Alcaraz, Alexander Zverev Make Winning Starts at ATP Finals

TURIN

Carlos Alcaraz began his ATP Finals campaign in style with a 7-6(5), 6-2 victory over Australia's Alex de Minaur, marking his first-ever opening-match win at the season-ending tournament. The world No. 2 overcame a shaky first set before finding his rhythm to seal the win in straight sets.

Alcaraz, who had previously lost his opening matches in the past two editions of the tournament, looked in command early, racing to a 4-1 lead. However, De Minaur fought back strongly as



Alcaraz's serve faltered, forcing a tense tiebreak. Trailing 3-1 and later 5-3 in the breaker, the Spaniard rediscovered his aggressive form, reeling off crucial points to take the set 7-6(5).

The second set was far more comfortable for the 22-year-old, who quickly broke De Minaur's serve and maintained control to wrap up his fifth consecutive victory over the Australian. "It was a really difficult match," Alcaraz said afterward. "Alex is super fast and makes the most of the court speed. I'm just happy with how I stayed focused and finished strong."

Alcaraz's victory places him atop the Jimmy Connors Group, which also includes Taylor Fritz and local favourite Lorenzo Musetti, who replaced the injured Novak Djokovic.

